

## **Criteria for BRC Style Jumping Tests (2017)**

### **Objectives**

1. To encourage better pace and rhythm in competitions and improved rider training in jumping competitions.
2. To demonstrate the rider's knowledge and effect of developing the canter at 325 metres per minute and its amenability for riding a course.
3. That judges can provide good constructive comments for the benefit of the competitors.

### **Aims**

The aim is to test the rider's ability to demonstrate a good jumping technique. A light balanced position prior to jumping, including changes of pace- maintaining an independent and balanced position during the course and showing the ability to ride suitable turns and approaches.

The difficulty of the horse's way of going is expected to be taken into account by the judges.

### **Time**

To be ridden at 325 metres per minute. The measurement of the course should be generous. This is meant to encourage riders to ride forward, demonstrating the ability to ride positively in pace, maintaining balance and rhythm. The course should be well spread about the arena with eight to twelve fences. This should include a stile or narrow fence, with at least one dog leg and including a double. This must be built with a spread in and an upright out.

### **Method of Judging**

The judge will watch the rider continuously and give marks for the position before the round and an assessment of how the course is jumped. The assistant will write down the Assessment of the rider before commencing the round mark on the score sheet as well a mark for each fence and as any jumping penalties incurred. After the completion of the round the judge will award marks for a) the rider's equestrian feel and skill b) the rider's leg position, balance and ability to follow the horse's movement over the fences and c) the horse's balance and rhythm. A timing judge will be required to award any time penalties.

Particular attention should be paid to the development of a 325 metres per minute canter and its balance and rhythm throughout the round. In case of equality of marks, jumping penalties will decide, then in order, the rider's equestrian feel and skill, the horse's balance and rhythm and the rider's leg position, balance and ability to follow the horse's movement over the fences.

### **Assessment**

In assessing the competitors, judges should take into account how they ride the whole course. Particular attention should be given to how they ride the turns and present the horse at the fence. The rider needs to show balanced approaches to the fences and be able to maintain a good forward canter. The position of the rider at take-off, in the air, on landing and in the following strides should be included in the assessment for each fence. Correct judgement of pace must be taken into consideration. It is assumed that the horse should be on the correct leg, unless it is capable of a well-balanced counter canter. A flying change, if correctly and quietly executed, is also acceptable as is a simple change through trot.

### **Tack**

Judges should ensure that the rules regarding saddlery etc. are observed (see BRC Rule Book).

### **Rules**

Judges should refer the specific competition rules as shown in the BRC Rule Book.

### **The Test**

The rules for the competition are set out in the BRC Official Rule Book. The actual form of the competition is as follows: the horse enters the arena; the rider halts and salutes the judges, then proceeds in canter whilst their position and balance is assessed before jumping. They are expected to work mainly in canter showing changes of paces and transitions on straight lines and small circles. Up to 10 marks will be awarded at this stage. The signal to start is then given and the course jumped, the rider is judged on how they ride the whole course, particular attention being given to how they ride the turns and present the horse at a fence. The course is completed when the horse passes through the finish. There is no need to salute the judge before leaving the arena. The judge will award the following marks for the round:-

1. Equestrian feel and skill, ability to present the horse correctly at the fence and ride accurate lines. The ability to maintain a clear rhythm and correct pace. Confidence. Ability to influence the horse correctly.
2. Riders leg position, balance and ability to follow the horses movement over the fence. Security of the lower leg. Independence of the rein.
3. Horse's balance and rhythm. Desire to move forward, attention and confidence, harmony, lightness and ease of movement, acceptance of the bridle, calmness of the jump.

The relative value of the marks should correspond to those used in dressage tests with the use of half marks allowed.

#### **Penalties will be awarded as follows:**

|  |               |
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| For every second or part thereof over the optimum time   | 0.4 penalties |
| Knocking down any part of an obstacle including the wing | 2 penalties   |
| First refusal on the whole course                        | 3 penalties   |
| Second refusal on the whole course                       | 6 penalties   |
| Third refusal on the whole course                        | Elimination   |
| Fall of horse and/or rider                               | Elimination   |
| Taking the wrong course                                  | Elimination   |
| Failing to salute the judges                             | Elimination   |
| Commencing the course before the first signal            | Elimination   |