



# **PCIA Virtual Showjumping Competition Rulebook**

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# Pony Club International Jumping Virtual Show

## Section 1: Introduction

The PCIA Virtual Show is a team competition of the Pony Club International Alliance (PCIA). The Show Organiser is the current Chair of the Pony Club International Alliance.

PCIA member countries invited by the Show Organiser to participate in this Competition are referred to as Host Nations for their respective teams.

Each Host Nation is requested to send video and/or photographs that represent the Competition for use in media to document the show.

## Section 2: Teams

Each Participating Nation will select four Athletes to form a Team for each of the following age groups:

- Subjunior, being 12 years and under on 1 January of the calendar year of the show; and
- Junior, being 13 - 16 years on 1 January of the calendar year of the show; and
- Senior, being 25 years and under on 1 January of the calendar year of the show; and
- Masters, being over 25 years on 1 January of the calendar year of the show

Each Athlete will compete in the competition outlined in section 5 below. Each Team will be ranked in accordance with section 11.2 below. Each Athlete will be ranked individually in accordance with section 11.1 below.

Subjunior Athletes will compete over a course with a maximum starting height of 70cm  
Junior Athletes will compete over a course with a maximum starting height of 80cm  
Senior Athletes will compete over a course with a maximum starting height of 105cm  
Masters Athletes will compete over a course with a maximum starting height of 80cm

## Section 3: Apparel

### 3.1 Dress

Athletes shall dress in competition clothing in accordance with their Host Nation's rules and specifications at the discretion of the Host Nation Jumping Judge.

### 3.2 Gear

Athletes shall use tack and other gear in accordance with their Host Nation's rules and specifications at the discretion of the Host Nation Jumping Judge.

## Section 4: Officials

### 4.1 Show Organiser

The Show Organiser will appoint a nationally accredited judge to oversee the Competition and may appoint an appeals panel at their own discretion.

### 4.2 Participating Nation Jumping Judges

Each Participating Nation shall appoint a Judge who is qualified to judge national championships in their respective country.

The Jumping Judge shall supervise the layout of the course from the plan provided by the Show Organiser. Any amendments or modifications from the course plan (e.g. on safety grounds to take account of reduced arena size or ground conditions) will be clearly marked on the course plan and a copy returned to the Show Organiser.

The Show Organiser will provide a standard score sheet for the Competition. Judges shall submit completed score sheets to the Show Organiser within two days of the Competition.

Any amendments made to the course plan or failure to submit score sheets to the Show Organiser correctly and on time may be grounds for disqualification of Athletes from the Competition at the discretion of the Show Organiser.

Scores must be submitted on score sheets supplied by show organizer.

## Section 5: Competition Rules

The Competition takes place over two rounds for each level i.e. the Junior team will compete over two rounds in the Junior Competition and the Senior team will compete over two rounds in the Senior Competition. Same applies for Sub Junior and Masters. Adding the Penalties for Faults at the obstacles gives the Score obtained by each Athlete for each round. **Article 273.21, 3.2 FEI**

Only Athletes with a Score of twelve Penalties or less in the first round shall continue to the second round.

The height of the Obstacles will be raised 50mm for the second round, the course will be shortened for the second round.

The first round shall not be against the clock. The second round shall be against the clock. There will not be a jump-off. **Article 273.2.1, 3.3.2, 4.3 FEI**

Each team will be ranked within their age group in accordance with 11.2 below. Each Athlete will also be ranked individually within their age group in accordance with 11.1 below.

### 5.1 Arena

Each Participating Country shall conduct the competition on an outdoor arena of 80m x 50m, or the closest to this size available. The arena surface should be sand.

### 5.2 Course Parameters

The Show Organiser shall provide the Participating Nations a copy of the course plan showing clearly all details of the course.

The course plan for each level of competition will be designed to in accordance with the parameters summarised in the following tables.

If the course supplied is used for another competition at the show fixture the course must be used for the PCIA competition first.

<b>Subjunior Competition</b>	
Number of obstacles	10
Min. /max. Height (metres)	.55/.7
Second round increase Height by (millimeters)	50
Max. Spread (metres)	.85
Length of the course (metres)	450
Time Allowed (seconds)	105
<b>Junior and Masters Competition</b>	
Number of obstacles	10
Min. /max. Height (metres)	.65/.8
Second round increase Height by (millimeters)	50
Max. Spread (metres)	1.05
Length of the course (metres)	450
Time Allowed (seconds)	90
<b>Senior Competition</b>	
Number of obstacles	10
Min./max. Height (metres)	.90/1.05
Second round increase Height by (millimeters)	50
Max. Spread (metres)	1.20
Length of the course (metres)	430
Time Allowed (seconds)	80

### 5.3 Obstacles

Participating Countries will build the course to the best of their abilities in accordance with the course plan with horsemanship and fairness in mind. Both the obstacles themselves and their constituent parts must be such that they can be knocked down, while not being so light that they fall at the slightest touch or so heavy that they may cause Horses to fall or be injured.

Poles and other parts of the obstacles are held up by supports (cups). The pole must be able to roll on its support; in this case the support must have a depth of 18 mm minimum and a depth of 20 mm maximum. For planks, balustrades, barriers, gates, etc. the diameter of the supports must be more open or even flat.

### 5.4 Combination Obstacles

In combinations, each element of the group must be jumped separately and consecutively, without circling around any element. Faults committed at any element of a combination are penalised separately.

When there is a Refusal, Run-out, the Athlete must retake all the elements.

Penalties for Faults made at each element and during different attempts, are counted separately and added together.

## Section 6: Penalties

Faults made between the starting line and the finishing line must be taken into consideration.

Faults are penalised in Penalty points or by Elimination according to the table below.

**Penalty Table**

<b>FAULT</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
(i) First Disobedience	Four Penalties
(ii) Obstacle knocked down while jumping	Four Penalties
(iii) Fall of Horse or Athlete or both	Elimination
(iv) Second Disobedience	Eight Penalties
(v) Third Disobedience or other infringement	Elimination
(vi) Exceeding the Time Limit	Elimination
(vii) Exceeding the Time Allowed	One penalty for each second commenced

### 6.1 Knock Down

An obstacle is considered to have been knocked down when, through a mistake of the Horse or Athlete:

- the whole or any upper part of the same vertical plane of it falls, even if the part which falls is arrested in its fall by any other part of the obstacle;
- at least one of its ends no longer rests on any part of its support.
- Touches and displacements of any part of an obstacle or its flags, in whatever direction, while in the act of jumping, do not count as a knock down. If in doubt the Judge should decide in favour of the Athlete. The knock down or displacement of an obstacle and/or a flag as a result of a Disobedience is penalised as a Refusal only.

In the event of the displacement of any part of an obstacle (except the flags) as a result of a Disobedience, the bell will be rung and the clock stopped while the displacement is re-adjusted. This does not count as a knock down and is only penalised as a Disobedience.

Penalties for knocking down an obstacle are those provided in the Penalty Table.

If any part of an obstacle, which has been knocked down is likely to impede an Athlete in jumping another obstacle, the bell must be rung and the clock stopped while this part is picked up and the way is cleared.

If an Athlete jumps an obstacle correctly which has been improperly rebuilt, he incurs no Penalty; but if he knocks down this obstacle he will be penalised in accordance with the table in use for the Competition.

A knock down of the last obstacle will be considered a fault if the upper element falls from one or both of its supports prior to the time the Athlete leaves the arena or until the bell is rung for the next Athlete to commence his round, whichever occurs first.

### 6.2 Vertical and Spread Obstacles

When a vertical obstacle or part of an obstacle comprises two or several parts placed one above the other and positioned in the same vertical plane, only the fall of the top part is penalised.

When a spread obstacle which requires only one effort comprises parts which are not positioned in the same vertical plane, the fall of one or several top parts only counts as one Fault whatever the number and position of the parts which have fallen. Trees, hedges etc. used as filling are not liable for Penalties.

### 6.3 Disobediences

The following are considered as Disobediences and are penalised as such:

- a Refusal;
- a Run-out;
- a Resistance;
- a more or less regular circle or group of circles no matter where they occur on the course or for whatever reason. It is also a Disobedience to circle around the last obstacle jumped unless the track of the course so requires.

Notwithstanding the above, the following is not considered to be a Disobedience:

- circling for up to 45 seconds after a Run-out or a Refusal (no matter if the obstacle has to be rebuilt or not) to get into position to jump an obstacle.

Penalties for the Disobediences accumulate not just at the same obstacle, but throughout the entire round. Disobediences, falls, etc., occurring between the signal to start and the moment the Athlete crosses the starting line in the correct direction, are not penalised. Disobediences committed during the time when the round is interrupted are not penalised.

### 6.4 Deviation from the Course

It is a deviation from the course when the Athlete:

- does not follow the course as set out on the published plan;
- does not cross the starting line or the finishing line between the flags in the correct direction;
- omits a compulsory turning point;
- does not jump the obstacles in the order or in the direction indicated;
- jumps or attempts to jump an obstacle which does not form part of the course; or
- omits an obstacle.

An uncorrected deviation from the course will result in Elimination of the Athlete.

### 6.5 Refusal

It is a Refusal when a Horse halts in front of an obstacle, which it must jump whether or not the Horse knocks it down or displaces it.

Stopping in front of an obstacle without moving backwards and without knocking it down followed immediately by a standing jump is not penalised. If the halt is prolonged, if the Horse steps back, either voluntarily or not, even a single pace, it counts as a Refusal.

If a Horse slides through an obstacle, the Judge in charge of the bell must decide immediately if it is to count as a Refusal or as an obstacle knocked down. If he decides that it is a Refusal the bell is rung at once and the Athlete must be ready to attempt the obstacle again as soon as it has been rebuilt. If the Judge decides that it is not a Refusal, the bell is not rung and the Athlete must continue his round. He is then penalised as for an obstacle knocked down. If the bell has been rung and the Athlete jumps other elements of the combination in his stride, he will not be eliminated or incur further penalties even if he knocks down this element of the combination.

### 6.6 Run-Out

It is a Run-out when the Horse escapes the control of its Athlete and avoids an obstacle, which it has to jump or a compulsory turning point, which it has to pass.

When a Horse jumps an obstacle between two red flags or between two white flags the obstacle has not been jumped correctly, the Athlete is penalised as for a Run-out and he must jump the obstacle again correctly.

It is considered to be a run out and is penalised as such for a Horse or any part of a Horse to go past the extended line of an obstacle to be jumped, or of an element of a combination, or of the finishing line or of a compulsory turning point.

## 6.7 Resistance

It is a Resistance when the Horse refuses to go forward, makes a halt for any reason, makes one or several more or less regular or complete half turns, rears or steps back for whatever reason.

It is equally a Resistance when the Athlete stops his Horse at any moment and for any reason, except in the event of an incorrectly rebuilt obstacle or to indicate unforeseen circumstances to the Judge A Resistance is penalised as for a Refusal.

## 6.8 Falls

An Athlete is considered to have fallen when, either voluntarily or involuntarily, he is separated from his Horse, which has not fallen, in such a way that he touches the ground or finds it necessary, in order to get back into the saddle, to use some form of support or outside assistance.

If it is not clear that the Athlete has used some form of support or outside assistance to prevent his fall, the benefit of doubt must be given to the Athlete.

A Horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters have touched the ground or the obstacle and the ground.

## 6.9 Unauthorised Assistance

Any physical intervention by a third party between the crossing of the starting line in the correct direction and the crossing of the finishing line after jumping the last obstacle, whether solicited or not, with the object of helping the Athlete or his Horse is considered to be unauthorised assistance.

In certain exceptional cases, the Judge may authorise the Athlete to enter the arena on foot or with the help of another person, without this being considered as unauthorised assistance.

Any help given to a mounted Athlete to adjust his saddlery or bridle or to hand him a whip while mounted during the round will incur Elimination. To hand a mounted Athlete his Headgear and/or spectacles during his round is not considered to be unauthorised assistance.

Earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited, and such usage is penalised by Elimination. Furthermore, Athletes may not wear earphones at any time while mounted.

## Section 7: Time

### 7.1 Time of the Round

The time of a round, recorded in seconds and in hundredths of a second, is the time taken by an Athlete to complete the round, plus the time correction if any. The time awarded to the Athlete starts running either upon crossing the starting line or upon expiration of the 45-second countdown, whichever occurs first. It extends to the moment when the mounted Athlete crosses the finishing line in the correct direction, after having jumped the last obstacle.

The round starts when the mounted Athlete passes the starting line in the correct direction for the first time after the bell has been rung. It extends to the moment when the mounted Athlete crosses the finishing line in the correct direction, after having jumped the last obstacle.

### 7.2 Time Limit

The Time Allowed for a round is set forth in the course parameters. The Time Limit is equal to twice the Time Allowed.

### 7.3 Recording the Time

Electronic timing equipment must be used. The time must be recorded to the one-hundredth of a second.



#### **7.4 Interrupted Time**

While the clock is stopped, the Athlete remains free to move around until the ringing of the bell gives him permission to start again.

The clock is restarted when the Athlete reaches the place where the clock was stopped. Exception, in the case of a Disobedience with a knock-down.

The responsibility for starting and stopping the clock rests solely with the Judge in charge of the bell. The timing equipment must be such that this procedure can be followed. The timekeeper may not be made responsible for this function.

The electronic timing system must not only register the time of the Athlete's round, but must also include time corrections, if any.

#### **7.5 Disobediences during Interrupted Time**

The clock is not stopped in the event of a deviation from the course, a Run-out or a Refusal.

Disobediences are not penalised during interrupted time, except for the second Refusal following a Refusal with a knockdown.

The provisions concerning Elimination remain in force during interrupted time.

#### **7.6 Time Corrections**

If, as the result of a Disobedience, an Athlete displaces or knocks down any obstacle or a flag defining the limits, of a natural obstacle or in all cases where the nature of the obstacle is changed by knocking down the flag, the bell is rung and the clock is stopped until the obstacle has been rebuilt. When the obstacle has been rebuilt the bell is rung to indicate that the course is ready and that the Athlete can continue the round. The Athlete is penalised for a Refusal and a time correction of six seconds is added to the time taken by the Athlete to complete his round. The clock is restarted at the moment when the Horse leaves the ground at the obstacle where the Refusal occurred. If a Disobedience with the knockdown occurs at the second or subsequent part of a combination the clock is restarted when the Horse leaves the ground at the first element of the combination.

#### **7.7 Stopping Time During the Round**

In the event of an Athlete not being able to continue his round for any reason or unforeseen circumstance, the bell should be rung to stop the Athlete. As soon as it is evident that the Athlete is stopping, the clock will be stopped. As soon as the course is ready again, the bell will be rung, and the clock will be restarted when the Athlete reaches the precise place where the clock was stopped; no penalty is incurred and six seconds are not added to the Athlete's time.

If the Athlete does not stop when the bell is rung, he continues at his own risk, and the clock should not be stopped. The Ground Jury must decide whether the Athlete is to be eliminated for ignoring the order to stop, or whether, under the circumstances, he should be allowed to continue. If the Athlete is not eliminated, and is allowed to continue his round, the Scores obtained at the obstacles preceding and following the order to stop will count.

If the Athlete stops voluntarily to signal to the Judge that the obstacle to be jumped is wrongly built or if due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Athlete, he is prevented from continuing his round under normal circumstances, the clock must be stopped immediately. The time of the interruption must be deducted and the clock stopped until the moment when the Athlete takes up his track at the point where he stopped.

## Section 8: Bell

The bell is used to communicate with the Athletes. The Judge is in charge of the bell and responsible for its use. The bell is used to give the signal to start and to activate a 45-second countdown shown in the timing equipment in the scoreboard or in another display beside the arena.

The 45-second countdown sets the time that the Athlete can spare before commencing his round. The Judge has the right to interrupt the 45-second countdown if unforeseen circumstances occur. Incidents such as, but not limited to, disobediences and falls, occurring between the signal to start and up to the moment the Athlete crosses the starting line in the correct direction, are not penalised. After the bell has rung, crossing the starting line in the correct direction for a second time before jumping the first obstacle is counted as a Disobedience.

However, the Judge, in its discretion if the situation so warrants, has the right not to activate the start or to cancel the starting procedure, give a new signal to start and restart the countdown.

- to stop an Athlete for any reason or following an unforeseen incident and to signal to him to continue his round after an interruption;
- to indicate the Athlete that an obstacle knocked down following a Disobedience has been replaced;
- to indicate by prolonged and repeated ringing that the Athlete has been eliminated.
- If the Athlete does not obey the signal to stop, he may be eliminated at the discretion of the Judge.

If, after an interruption, the Athlete restarts and jumps or attempts to jump without waiting for the bell to ring, he will be eliminated.

## Section 9: Salute

Each Athlete must salute as a matter of courtesy, unless given other instructions. The Judge may refuse to start an Athlete who has not saluted.

For special reasons the Judge may decide that the salute is not necessary.

Athletes may not remove their Headgear when saluting. Raising the whip or lowering the head is considered an appropriate salute.

## Section 10: Eliminations, Disqualifications and Retirement

### 10.1 Eliminations

Elimination means that the Athlete with the Horse in question may not continue in that round.

The Athlete has the right to jump one single obstacle, after retiring or after being eliminated, providing that obstacle is part of the course of the current Competition. This, however, does not apply to Elimination arising from a fall.

The Judge must enforce Elimination under the following circumstances:

- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle in the arena before the start of the round;
- starting before the signal is given and jumping the first obstacle of the course;
- taking more than 45 seconds to jump the first obstacle after the time of the round has started, except all cases relating to circumstances beyond the influence of the Athlete;
- a Horse resisting for 45 consecutive seconds during the round;
- taking more than 45 seconds to jump the next obstacle, or to jump the last obstacle and cross the finishing line;
- jumping the first obstacle while omitting to cross the starting line between the flags in the correct direction;
- not following the track indicated by a continuous line on the course plan;
- attempting to or jumping an obstacle which does not form part of the course during the round;

- omitting to jump an obstacle of the course or after a Run-out or a Refusal, failing to attempt to jump again the obstacle where the Fault was committed;
- jumping an obstacle out of order;
- jumping an obstacle in the wrong direction;
- exceeding the Time Limit;
- following a Refusal, jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle which has been knocked down, before it has been rebuilt;
- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle after an interruption without waiting for the bell;
- not jumping all the elements of a combination again after a Refusal or Run-out, except in the case of the closed part of a combination;
- not taking each element of a combination separately and consecutively;
- not crossing the finishing line between the flags mounted in the correct direction, after having jumped the last obstacle before leaving the arena;
- Athlete and/or horse leaving the arena without permission of the Judge, including prior to starting;
- a loose Horse leaving the arena before the end of the round, including prior to starting;
- accepting while mounted any object whatsoever during a round other than Headgear and/or spectacles;
- using a whip of more than 75 centimetres in length, or weighted at the end, on the show-ground or in its immediate proximity (no substitute for a whip may be carried);
- an accident to an Athlete or to a horse which prevents him from completing the Competition;
- not leaving a closed combination in the right direction or displacing a closed combination;
- third Disobedience during the course of a round;
- fall of Athlete or Horse during the round;
- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle in the arena after the completion of a round;
- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle with a retention harness incorrectly fastened or not fastened unless the circumstances rendered it unsafe for the Athlete to stop immediately in order to refasten the harness;
- Athlete wearing earphones and/or other electronic communication devices during a Competition.

## **10.2 Disqualifications**

Disqualification means that the Athlete, the Horse(s), and/or a combination of both is/are disqualified from the Competition at issue or from the entire Event. Disqualification may also be retroactive.

Disqualification is mandatory in the following cases:

- horses bleeding on the flank(s);
- marks indicating excessive use of spurs or of the whip anywhere on the Horse;
- horses bleeding in the mouth (in minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, Officials may authorise the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the Athlete to continue; any further evidence of blood in the mouth will result in Disqualification);
- jumping unauthorised obstacles in any place on the show ground;
- leaving the show ground with the horse for any purpose during the period of the Competition.

### 10.3 Abuse of Horses

All forms of cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment of Horses, which include, but are not limited to various forms of rapping, are strictly forbidden.

The following are considered to be abuse of a Horse:

#### Rapping Horses

The term "rapping" is construed to include all of the artificial techniques intended to induce the Horse to jump higher or more carefully in Competitions. It is not practical to list every possible means of rapping, but in general it consists of the Athlete and/or dismounted assistants, for whose behaviour the Athlete is responsible, either hitting the Horse's legs manually with something (no matter with what or by whom) or deliberately causing the Horse to hit something itself, whether by building obstacles too large and/or too wide, setting false ground lines, placing trotting poles or the elements of a combination at a false distance, intentionally pulling or pushing the Horse into an obstacle or otherwise making it difficult or impossible for the Horse to negotiate the practice obstacle without hitting it.

#### Excessive use of the whip

The whip may not be used to vent an Athlete's temper. Such use is always excessive;

- The use of a whip on a Horse's head is always excessive use;
- A Horse should never be hit more than two times in a row.
- If a Horse's skin is broken, it is always considered excessive use of the whip;
- The whip is not to be used after Elimination;

#### Other Forms of Abuse

Abuse of a Horse in any other form is also prohibited.

## Section 11: Scores, Placings and Prizes

Results for each team will be determined independently.

Team prizes and individual prizes will be awarded to sixth place. Each Host Country will deliver rosettes (and other prizes at each country's discretion) for Athletes from their respective country.

### 11.1 Individual Score and Placings

Individual Scores and Placings shall be decided as follows:

- Lowest aggregate penalties over both rounds and the fastest time incurred in the second round.
- Athletes that have not qualified for the second round will be placed in accordance with their penalties incurred in the first round.

### 11.2 Team Scores and Placings

Team Scores and Placings shall be decided as follows:

- The total Penalties of the best three Athletes per Team in the first round are added to the total Penalties of the best three Athletes per Team in the second round to calculate the Team Score. The Placings are determined in the order of decreasing Team Scores i.e. the Team with the lowest score is the winner.
- Teams with equality of Team Scores will be placed according to the fastest combined time of their best three Athletes in the second round. If the combined times are equal, the placing shall remain equal.
- If a Team does not have three Athletes that qualify for the second round, they shall be placed in accordance with the total Penalties of the best three Athlete per Team in the first round.

### **11.3 Period for Public Queries**

Following announcement of the Provisional Results by the Show Organiser, there will be a Period for public queries for a duration to be determined by the Show Organiser during which time competitors or other interested parties may raise concerns about the Results to their PCIA national representative(s).

The Show Organiser will liaise with Judges from affected Host Nation(s) to resolve any disputes prior to release of Final Results.