



Young Farmers'
Clubs of Ulster

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster
475 Antrim Road
Belfast
County Antrim
BT15 3BD

Competition	Show Jumping
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Exact dates and venues will be distributed to secretaries and leaders by HQ

Eligibility

Participants must hold a valid full or transit YFCU membership.

Categories

- 65 cm
- 85 cm
- 100cm
- 110cm

Each competitor can enter all three classes, but a different horse must be used for each category. If an individual enters more than 1 category, this will count as a separate entry. A horse can compete in an individual category up to three times; however, the horse cannot compete in more than one category.

Rules

Showjumping competition will follow the same rules/ format of Pony club showing. Competitors can inspect the course up to one hour before the event takes place.

Faults for show jumping competitions

- Knockdown 4 faults
- Foot on lath, tape and/or strip or in water 4 faults
- First disobedience 4 faults
- Second disobedience 8 faults

- Third disobedience Elimination
- Error of Course Elimination
- Fall of Horse or Rider Elimination
- Exceeding the time limit Elimination
- Failing to jump the next fence within 45 secs. Elimination

Time faults

One time fault is incurred for each commenced second more than the time allowed. Failure to complete the Course within the Time Limit incurs Elimination. (NB Time Limit = twice the time allowed).

Timing

If possible, electronic timing should be used. If this is not available, two timekeepers with stopwatches must be used. If the timing equipment permits, the 45-second countdown may be used according to British Show Jumping Rules. It should however be explained over the public address before starting and at intervals during the first round. If there is no countdown facility and the competitor does not start within 45 seconds, the clock will be started manually, and the competitor must then start and complete the round within the Time Limit or be eliminated.

Time penalties

- Time penalties are incurred when an obstacle is displaced as a result of a disobedience.
- A displacement of any single obstacle or any subsequent part of any open or closed combination will incur an addition of 6 seconds.
- Starting the clock following such displacement will be taken from take-off or attempted to take off.
- Time penalties are added to the time taken to complete the round before the calculation of time faults.

Falls

- The first fall of a horse and/or rider will result in Elimination.
- A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters on the same side touch the ground or touch the obstacle and the ground simultaneously.

- A rider is considered to have fallen when there is separation between him and his horse which necessitates remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
- A fall of a horse and/or rider anywhere on the course, (including a fall after the starting bell but before going through the start and a fall during interrupted time), will always incur elimination in any competition.
- After an elimination that has resulted from a fall of a horse or rider, the rider must leave the arena dismounted. For training purposes subject to being checked by the onsite first aid provider, competitors may return to the arena at a suitable time before the class is finished in order to jump another round of "horse concours".

Disturbing the obstacle because of disobedience

- A disobedience that disturbs the obstacle, including the displacement of a lower element, such that the obstacle must be re-erected and/or checked incurs a 6-second time penalty in addition to the faults and/or elimination incurred.
- The bell is rung, and the clock is stopped immediately.
- Penalties at Combinations – If there is disobedience at obstacle B or subsequent obstacles of a combination without disturbance of that obstacle and any of the previous obstacles have been disturbed and require re-erection or checking, the procedures for ringing the bell and stopping the clock in must be applied.
- The clock is restarted at the moment when the horse takes off or attempts to take off at the obstacle where the refusal occurred.
- If a disobedience occurs at the second or subsequent part of a combination the clock is restarted when the horse takes off or attempts to take off at the first element of the combination.
- Penalties for knockdowns are only incurred in respect of obstacles which are knocked down as a direct result of having been jumped in
- the correct order and provided the obstacle has started to fall before
- the competitor crossed the finishing line. Any other knockdown is not penalised.

Example

A rider/horse knocks into and displaces a fence not being jumped, which has either already been jumped, is still to be jumped or is not part of the

course. If the fence is still to be jumped or is impeding the safe jumping of another fence the Judge will ring the bell to stop the rider, and the clock, at an appropriate place to allow the fence to be rebuilt without penalty. After the restart bell, the clock will restart when the rider/ horse passes the place where they were stopped. Before leaving the arena after being eliminated because of a third refusal or run out, the competitor may take up to two attempts to jump any single obstacle in the arena in the direction as indicated on the course plan. After a fall or horse fall a rider must leave the arena dismounted.

These rules may not cover every possible situation. If unforeseen or exceptional circumstances arise during any Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster show jumping event or if any issues arise related to the event, it is the responsibility of the appointed officials to make decisions in the spirit of fair play and to align as closely as possible with the intent of these rules. Competitors are accountable for ensuring their adherence to the competition rules. Additionally, it is emphasised that the event rules will adhere to the same regulations as those set forth by British Showjumping.

Horses

- No horse under 5 years of age is eligible. A horse or pony shall be deemed to reach the age of 1 on the first of January following the date on which it is foaled and shall be deemed to become a year older on each successive first of January.
- There is no height limit.
- Stallions can only be ridden if they have given advance notice and a reference supporting their suitability for the competition and in the interests of safety, must wear identifying discs on their bridle.

Vaccinations

A valid passport and vaccination record:

- must accompany the horse/pony to all events
- must be available for inspection by the event officials
- must be produced on request at any other time during the event

All ponies/horses must be compliant with the current Pony Club minimum vaccination requirements.

Dress

New equipment is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat, tidy, and safe. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their dress complies with the rules. Hair must be tied back securely, in a safe manner to reduce the risk of hair being caught and to prevent scalp injuries. It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet at all times when mounted with the chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall. This rule defines the quality of manufacture that is required.

Hat Standard	Safety Mark
PAS 015 2011 with BSI Kitemark	
VG1 with BSI Kitemark	
Snell E2016 onwards with the official Snell label and number	
ASTM-F1163 2004a onwards with the SEI mark	
AS/NZS 3838, 2006 onwards	

Notes

- No recording device is permitted (e.g. hat cameras) as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.
- Hats must be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use.
- Hats must be worn at all times (including at prize-giving) when mounted with the chinstrap fastened and adjusted so as to prevent movement of the hat in the event of a fall.

The Official Steward/Organiser may, at his discretion, eliminate a competitor riding in the area of the competition without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened or with a hat that does not comply with these standards.

Footwear

Only standard riding or jodhpur boots with a well-defined square cut heel may be worn. No other footwear will be permitted, including Wellington boots, yard boots, country boots, "muckers" or trainers. Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots.

Spurs

May be worn. Any misuse of spurs will result in disqualification. Sharp spurs are not permitted. Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, and spurs that have a smooth rotating ball on the shank may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 4cm in length. The measurement is taken from the boot to the end of the shank.

- Spurs must only be used to enhance the normal leg aids and allow for better communication from rider to horse.
- Spurs must never be used to vent a competitor's anger or to reprimand the horse.
- Use of the spurs that cause injury e.g. blood, broken skin, or a weal, is always classed as misuse.
- Misuse of the spurs anywhere at the event will result in disqualification.

Whips

At all times, the whip must only be used:

- For a good reason, as an aid to encourage the horse forward.
- At an appropriate time, namely when the horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs.
- In the right place, namely down the shoulder or behind the leg but never overarm.
- With appropriate severity.
- Maximum of three times after entering the arena. For this rule, use of the whip is defined as when the rider takes his/ her hand off the reins to use the whip.
- Repeated slapping down the shoulder is discouraged and may result in disqualification.

Excessive use of the whip anywhere at the event will result in elimination of the rider from any competition which has already taken place and disqualification of the rider from competing for the rest of the day.

- Use of the whip to vent a competitor's anger is always excessive.
- Use of a whip which causes injury e.g. Broken skin or a weal, is always excessive.
- Use after elimination or retirement is always excessive.
- Use on a horse's head, neck, etc. is always excessive.
- Using the whip from the ground after a rider falls or dismount is always excessive.
- If the rider's arm comes above the shoulder when using the whip, this is always excessive.

Jewellery

The wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended and if done, is done at the risk of the member.

However, to stop any risk of injury, necklaces, and bracelets (other than medical bracelets) must be removed, as must larger and more pendulous pieces of jewellery (including those attached to piercings) which create a risk of injury to the body part through which they are secured. For the avoidance of doubt a wristwatch, wedding ring, stock pin worn horizontally, and/or a tie clip are permitted.

Electronic devices: (i.e. headphones etc. enabling another person to communicate with the rider) are not allowed whilst the rider is competing. No recording device is permitted (e.g., head / bridle cameras etc.). Neither the feet nor the stirrup leathers or irons may be attached to the girth, nor the feet attached to the stirrup irons.

Saddlery and Equipment

The type of saddle is optional. Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots. They must have 7mm (1/4") clearance on either side of the boot. To find this measurement, move the foot across to one side of the stirrup, with the widest part of the foot on the tread. From the side of the boot to the edge of the stirrup should not be less than 14mm. There are now many types of stirrups marketed as 'safety stirrups'. All riders must ensure that their stirrups are suitable for the type of footwear they are wearing and the event and that the stirrup leathers are in good condition. It is strongly recommended that the design of the stirrup chosen allows the foot to be released easily in the event of a rider fall.

For safety reasons leather bridles are recommended. The Micklem Multibridle and bitless bridles are permitted.

Reins

Market Harborough and running, drawing or check reins of any kind are forbidden. (A running, draw or check rein is one which is attached to the saddle, girth, martingale or breastplate on the horse).

Martingales

The only martingales permitted are Irish, Standing, Running or Bib only one of which may be worn at the same time. Standing Martingales may be attached only to the cavesson portion of the noseband fitted above the bit.

Nosebands

Only one may be worn unless using a Standing Martingale with a combination, kinton, drop noseband or similar in which case the addition of a cavesson is allowed. Nosebands must be correctly fitted and should not cause discomfort. Nosebands must not incorporate chain or rope except that Myler combination bits and other similar bit designs that incorporate a rope nosepiece are permitted. Sheepskin nosebands are permitted.

Fly hoods, nose nets and ear covers are permitted for all competitions and may also provide noise reduction. The ear cover/ fly fringe must not cover the horse's eyes. Blinkers are prohibited, except leather and sheepskin attachments on the cheek pieces of the bridle are allowed providing the material does not exceed 3cm in diameter measured from the horse's face. Pelhams must be used with two reins or roundings. Weymouth bits must only be used as part of a double bridle. Bit guards must be entirely rubber and smooth on both sides are permitted.

The following are NOT allowed/permitted:

- The use of string, twine or cord in or round the horse's mouth is forbidden.
- Ernest Dillon reins, Split reins and Bridge reins.
- Tongue Straps and Tongue Grids.
- Weighted Boots.

- Humane Girths (having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps were to break)
- Hoof Boots
- Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural things, such as ribbons, flowers, glitter etc. in the mane/tail or applied to the coat is forbidden. Red bows in the tail are permitted for horses that kick.

Protective boots for horses: The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a horse's leg; front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc) is 500g. The inside of the boot must be smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot; for the avoidance of doubt, stitching on the inside of the protective element that attaches the inner lining to the boot, is permitted. Sheepskin linings are allowed.

On the hind leg the following are permitted provided they comply with rule (m) above:

- Brushing type boots that cover the fetlock and cannon bone which are made from Neoprene, leather or other similar soft material, provided that the boot contains no rigid inserts.
- Ankle or fetlock type boots that have a maximum interior length of 16cm and a minimum exterior width of 5cm. Hind boots that have an extra flap for protection should be allowed providing the flap is soft and clearly intended for protection only.

Boots that have a protective element on the inside and outside, that is, double-shell boots that wrap around the back of the fetlock, are permitted providing they meet the following criteria:

- The boot must have a maximum length of 20cm.
- The rounded protective part of the boot must be placed around the fetlock.
- The inside of the boot must be smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside
- of the boot; for the avoidance of doubt, stitching on the inside of the protective element that attaches the inner lining to the boot, is permitted.
- The boot must have two elastic fasteners with a minimum width of 2.5cm each.

- Only the following types of fasteners are permitted:
- Stud-type fasteners: straps with holes at the end that fit over a stud;
Hook-and-eye type fasteners: straps with a hook at the end that fits into an “eyelet”.
- Fasteners must be one-directional, that is, the fastener must be attached directly from one side of the boot to the other side and may not wrap around the entire boot; no mechanism permitting the fastener to double back on itself is permitted.
- No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself.
- Fetlock rings may be used in addition for protective purposes providing they are properly adjusted and providing the total weight of equipment on the horse’s leg does not exceed 500g.

Action after a fall

Any competitor who has a fall or sustains a serious injury anywhere at the competition site must see the medical personnel on the day and be passed fit to ride before riding that horse in a further test or before riding any other horse.

Head injury and concussion

There are strict procedures around the response to concussion.

General Advice

Head injuries and concussion can be life changing and fatal. Serious head injuries are usually obvious, but concussion can be very subtle. It may not be immediately apparent but should be taken very seriously. Members may be asked not to ride by an Official (including a first aider) who believes they may have sustained a concussion either at the time of injury or from a previous injury (which may not have been sustained whilst riding). Concussion is difficult to diagnose, and practitioners of all grades must err on the side of caution. Thus, any decision must be respected, and professional medical support is advised to avoid further harm. Ignoring an official’s advice about concussion would breach the YFCU Code of Conduct.

Incidents that could cause head injuries or concussion

Any Member who suffers an incident that could cause head injury or concussion (for example, a fall from their horse/pony) should be assessed

by the first aid provider in attendance. If unable to reach a definite diagnosis or the first aider is the highest level of cover at the activity, then the Member should be referred to a hospital or a doctor off site for a professional diagnosis. The member must not ride again until they have been seen by a doctor/ hospital.

Actions to be taken in the event of a suspected head injury or suspected concussion diagnosis

If a diagnosis of a suspected head injury or concussion is made by a first aider, the member should be advised to go to hospital. Any Member who has been diagnosed with a suspected or confirmed head injury/concussion should not be left alone and must be supervised by a responsible adult where appropriate. Once a diagnosis of suspected head injury or concussion is made by the first aid cover present, then that decision is final. If a member is advised to see a doctor because of suspected head injury/concussion and the individual/guardians decide not to allow the Member to be examined (either at the event or in the hospital), the Member will not be allowed to ride again on the day and should be treated as if they have sustained a confirmed head injury/concussion. Where a doctor subsequently certifies that a member does not have or did not suffer a head injury/concussion and provides evidence that they are satisfied the Member is well enough to continue, that Member will be treated as if they did not sustain a concussion and may continue.

Actions to be taken in the event of a confirmed head injury or confirmed concussion

In the event of a confirmed head injury or confirmed concussion diagnosis, the doctor will advise the Member not to ride or take part in any activity that potentially involves hard contact for three weeks. The member may be advised that they could request a review of any ongoing concussion problems by a doctor (with experience in assessing concussion) after 10 days. If that doctor is happy to certify that the Member is not suffering from a concussion, the Member may ride again.

Actions to be taken in the event of a diagnosis of confirmed or suspected head injuries/concussions outside of the event

If a YFCU Official becomes aware that a member has sustained a suspected or confirmed head injury/concussion and has been advised not to take part in any potentially hard contact activities, the Member must not be allowed to take part in the showjumping competition., unless appropriate medical evidence of fitness to ride can be provided by the member, dated at least 10 days after the initial injury.

Unseemly behaviour

Unseemly behavior on the part of riders or accompanying members will be reported as soon as possible by the Official to YFCU headquarters. Offenders may be penalised by disqualification. Any competitor who in the opinion of the Official Steward, or Organiser, has been extremely rude or aggressive towards any officials at a competition, or who has behaved aggressively or unfairly to their horse may be disqualified.

Disqualification

The Official Steward or Chief Judge may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition for:

- Dangerous riding.
- If, in their option, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted.
- Misuse of whip, spur or bit, or ill-treatment of the horse.
- Breach of the rules.
- Unseemly behaviour, including bad language.

Health & Safety

Organisers of this event have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers and all the officials and stewards.

Legal Liability

Save for the death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the organisers, or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the organisers of this event or YFCU nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, nor the landlord or his tenant, accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders,

spectators, land, cars, their contents and accessories, or any other person or property whatsoever. Entries are only accepted on this basis.

Prizes

1st, 2nd and 3rd place receive a voucher from event sponsor and rosettes. 4th and 5th place receive rosettes.

Proficiencies

Proficiencies are awarded to all competitors.

Protests

See Protests in the General Rules section. The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to cancel or amend any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.