

**PONY  
CLUB**



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195-292 NPO

# **THE SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING RULES**

# South African Pony Club Showjumping Rules 2016

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## South African Pony Club Showjumping Rules 2016

As a Member of the South African Pony Club, I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship.

I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in my stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being.

I shall endeavour to treat my horse with consideration.

### **THE PONY CLUB SHOW JUMPING OBJECTIVES**

To provide an opportunity for all Branches interested in Show Jumping to compete against each other and to encourage a high standard of riding.

### **PREAMBLE**

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they are complying with the rules of the competition.

### **GENERAL**

Except where varied below, all Pony Club Show Jumping competitions shall be run under the auspices of the SA Show Jumping Rules and FEI Jumping Rules 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, 1 January 2015.

It is the responsibility of each member to familiarize themselves with these rules prior to any competition. These rules can be found on the SA Show Jumping website - [www.sashowjumping.co.za](http://www.sashowjumping.co.za).

## **1 INSPECTION OF THE COURSE**

- 1.1 The president of the Ground Jury or a member of the Ground jury appointed by him must, in the company of the Course Designer, walk the course to inspect the fences before the start of the competition.
- 1.2 The course is the track, which the mounted competitor must follow when competing, from passing the start in the correct direction up to the finish. The length must be measured accurately to the nearest meter taking account, particularly on the turns, of the normal line to be followed by the horse. The normal line must pass through the middle of the obstacle.
- 1.3 If the condition of the ground becomes bad the Ground Jury, in consultation with the Course Designer, may alter the speed before the start of the first competitor of the competition.
- 1.4 The Course shall be ready for inspection by Competitors a reasonable time before the start of the Competition.

## **2 PLAN OF THE COURSE**

A plan of the Course shall be displayed by the time the Course is ready for inspection showing:

- 2.1 The Course and Jump off Course to be jumped and its length.
- 2.2 The Speed, Time Allowed and the Time Limit of both courses.

## **3 ARENAS**

- 3.1 The arena must be enclosed. While a horse is in the arena during a competition, all entrances and exits must be closed.
- 3.2 Should it not be possible in practical terms for the arena to be enclosed and all entrances and exits to be closed while a horse is competing, the judge for the competition shall publicly announce before the commencement of the competition how rule 3.1 above is to be interpreted under the prevailing conditions.
- 3.3 Competitors on foot may only be admitted once to the arena before each competition and this includes competitions with jump-offs. Permission to enter the arena will be given by the Ground jury ringing the bell. When competitors are required to leave the arena the bell will be rung again. In both instances an announcement must be made over the public address system. However in competitions over two rounds with different courses, competitors may inspect the course before the second round.
- 3.4 Unless permission is given by the Jury, it is forbidden, under penalty of disqualification or elimination, for competitors to enter the arena on foot once the competition has started.
- 3.5 Competitors are forbidden to exercise their horses in the arena for the duration of the event, except as provided in 3.6 below, under penalty of disqualification by the Ground Jury. Competitors are forbidden to attempt to jump or to jump an obstacle in the arena before starting, under penalty of disqualification or elimination by the Ground Jury.

- 3.6 The Organising Committee of an Indoor event where facilities are severely limited, may, with the agreement of the Ground Jury, give special permission for the arena to be used for exercising at specified times.

(Also refer to FEI Rules Chapter II Article 202)

- 3.7 Competitors may not jump or attempt to jump any obstacle in the arena during a parade before the competition. Failure to comply with this may incur disqualification or elimination.
- 3.8 The competitor must enter the arena when their number is called. Failure to do so incurs elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- 3.9 Competitors must enter and leave the arena mounted except with the permission of the Ground Jury or in case of an accident during the round. Failure to do so incurs elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- 3.10 A Competitor/horse leaving the arena before the completion of his round, including prior to starting, without the permission of the Ground Jury, will be eliminated.
- 3.11 At Events where fixed obstacles (banks, ditches, water jumps etc.) will be used, competitors may not jump or attempt to jump any of these obstacles after the closing date of entry. Failure to comply with this paragraph will incur disqualification.

#### **4 BELL**

- 4.1 The bell is used to communicate with the competitors. One of the members of the Ground Jury is in charge of the bell and responsible for its use as follows:
- 4.1.1 To give permission to the competitors to enter the arena when the course is ready for their inspection, and to signal that the inspection time is over.
  - 4.1.2 To give the signal to start and to activate 45 seconds which sets the time that the competitor can spare before commencing his round. The Ground Jury has the right to interrupt the 45 second countdown if unforeseen circumstances appear. Disobediences, falls etc occurring between the signal to start and the moment the competitor crosses the starting line in the correct direction, are not penalized. Crossing the starting line after the bell has rung in the correct direction for a second time before jumping the first fence, is counted as a disobedience.
  - 4.1.3 To stop a competitor, following an unforeseen incident, or for any reason and to signal to them to continue their round after an interruption.
  - 4.1.4 To indicate to them that an obstacle knocked down following a disobedience has been replaced.
  - 4.1.5 To indicate by prolonged and repeated ringing that the competitor has been eliminated.

- 4.1.6 If the competitor starts and jumps or attempts to jump without waiting for the bell to ring, they will be eliminated.
- 4.1.7 It is the responsibility of the competitor to remain near the obstacle when it is being rebuilt.
- 4.2 It is the duty of the Ground jury to ring the bell and re-start the clock when the rider is in a good position to approach the obstacle.
- 4.3 Should the competitor not keep in the neighborhood of the obstacle being rebuilt, the Ground Jury will not wait until he is in a good position; the bell will be rung when the obstacle is rebuilt and the clock will be started at the same time.

### **5 WARM UP ARENA AND SCHOOLING AREAS**

- 5.1 The Organising Committee must provide at least one exercise or schooling area sufficiently large for warming up conditions. There must be a minimum of one upright and one spread obstacle. The ground has to be in good condition. When there are many competitors and sufficient space, additional obstacles should be provided with red and white flags. However, the flags may be replaced by tape or paint in order to provide a white and red top to the wings/uprights.
- 5.2 Competitors must exercise their horses in the area provided. Horses may not be exercised in the Car Park or Horsebox area or among spectators.
- 5.3 It is compulsory for all horses in the warm up arena to be mounted.
- 5.4 Competitors must use only the practice fences provided in the warm up arena.
- 5.5 The practice fences must be marked appropriately and must be jumped with red on the right and white on the left.
- 5.6 Practice fences shall not exceed, in height or spread, the maximum dimensions for the fences in the current round.
- 5.7 Practice fences shall be stewarded, and shall not be used when the Steward is absent. (Also refer to FEI Rules Chapter 11 Article 201).
- 5.8 Warm up and schooling of ponies:

5.8.1 Horses competing may only be schooled or ridden by their rider, from 18h00 on the day preceding the start of the event, until the end of the event. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Official Steward, may another member of the same team assist.

5.8.2 Persons other than the competitor may lunge the horse, or horse and rider.

### **6 PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR**

- 6.1 Wearing protective headgear which includes a retaining harness secured to the shell at more than three points, with the chin strap correctly and securely fastened, is compulsory for anyone mounted on a horse at all times.
- 6.2 Only protective headgear manufactured to EN1384, ASTM F1163 or PAS 015 or SNELL E2001 with Kite Mark or SEI or such other suitable protective headgear as offers a similar or higher level of protection may be worn.
- 6.3 The fit of the hat and the adjustment of the harness are as crucial as the quality. Members are advised to try several makes to find the best fit. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward.
- 6.4 Hats should 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 on the amount of use.
- 6.5 The Official Steward/Organiser will eliminate any competitor riding without a hat or with the chinstrap unfastened, except under the circumstances below;
  - 6.5.1 A competitor whose hat comes off or chinstrap comes undone, whilst riding in the competition must, on penalty of elimination, replace it, or do it up, before continuing.
  - 6.5.2 The competitor may dismount without penalty to recover the hat or have it passed up from the ground, or they may stop without penalty to do up the chinstrap. The clock shall not be stopped.
  - 6.5.3 If the hat comes off, or the chinstrap comes undone, in the middle of a double, treble or multiple obstacle, the obstacle may be negotiated first.
  - 6.5.4 Any circles which a competitor completes in the course of recovering the hat, or doing up the chinstrap, shall not be penalised.

### **7 DRESS**

- 7.1 When inspecting the course competitors must be neat and tidy.
- 7.2 At Inter Regional Events competitors are required to wear:

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- 7.2.1 Riding Jacket of a uni-colour or tweed material, but where the collar and cuffs can be of a different colour. School Blazers may be worn. Buttonholes shall not be worn.
- 7.2.2 White or coloured shirt with white collar and/or cuffs with the Pony Club tie.
- 7.2.3 Competitors may not wear shirts without sleeves unless they wear a jacket over the shirt.
- 7.2.4 White, Light beige or pale cream breeches or jodhpurs must be worn. Dark coloured breeches may not be worn.
- 7.2.5 Standard Riding or Jodhpur Boots with a smooth, fairly thin sole, and a well defined square cut heel should be worn. Black leather bootlegs may be worn with matching jodhpur boots, however no suede leather will be acceptable. No other footwear will be allowed.
- 7.2.6 Body Protectors may be worn.
- 7.3 At Interbranch Events competitors may wear Branch Colours which may include dark coloured breeches, jodhpurs or riding slacks and golf shirts.
- 7.4 At Prize giving, whether mounted or unmounted, competitors must be correctly dressed in their competition riding clothes. Only tack that falls within the rules of the competition will be allowed.

### **8 HAIR**

- 8.1 In the interests of safety long hair should be secured back appropriately, preferably in a hairnet.

### **9 JEWELLERY**

- 9.1 This rule applies to all Pony Club mounted activities. For safety reasons, no jewellery (including “sleepers”) may be worn, other than a wedding ring, a wristwatch, a stock pin worn horizontally, or a tie clip.
- 9.2 “Sleepers” have, in the past, caused injuries following falls. There are vulnerable blood vessels behind the ear and, in addition, if the facial nerve is pierced, partial paralysis of the face can occur

### **10 ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

- 10.1 Electronic devices such as headphones, mobile phones etc. are not allowed whilst the rider is competing or in the practice/warm up arena.
- 10.2 Electronic devices enabling another person to communicate with the rider are allowed while the rider is in the practice/ warm up arena but not allowed whilst the rider is competing.

### **11 SPURS**

- 11.1 Spurs may only be worn at Rallies and other events with the permission of the branch District Commissioner.
- 11.2 Members without B Test should carry proof of this permission.



- 11.3 Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, 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 3cm in length. Sharp spurs may not be worn.
- 11.4 Spurs made of plastic are not allowed.

## **12 SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT**

- 12.1 Our first concern is the safety of equipment. Saddlery and Equipment shall be correctly fitted at all times, clean, and un-broken (stitching must be intact, leather not cracked, etc).
- 12.2 Saddle Cloths
  - 12.2.1 Plain saddle cloths, numnahs, including “Polypads” or saddle cloths in Branch Colours with appropriate Branch Logos are allowed.
- 12.3 Stirrups
  - 12.3.1 Stirrups should be the correct size to suit the rider’s boots and should have 7mm clearance on either side.
  - 12.3.2 The stirrup iron and the stirrup leather must hang freely from the bar of the saddle and the outside flap. There must be no other restrictions or attachments of any kind.
  - 12.3.3 The rider must not directly or indirectly tie any part of his body to the saddlery.
  - 12.3.4 It is recommended that children use safety stirrups.
- 12.4 Bits
  - 12.4.1 Bitless bridles and hackamores are not allowed.
  - 12.4.2 Pelhams or curb bits of any kind may only be used with both bit and bridoon reins, or with a single rein attached to connecting reins, which connect the bit and bridoon rings.
  - 12.4.3 Gag Snaffles, if used, must have smooth mouthpieces and may be used with one or two pairs of reins.
  - 12.4.4 Continental or American Gags may be used with plain, single or double-jointed smooth mouthpieces. They may be used with one or two pairs of reins or connecting reins. The length of the shank, measured from top to bottom shall not exceed 19cm. There may be no curb attachments to these bits. Elevators (which have a fixed mouthpiece) are not permitted.
  - 12.4.5 Bits must be used in the manufactured condition without any additional covering to or on any part.
- 12.5 Martingales

12.5.1 Only unrestricted running martingales are allowed.

12.6 Nosebands

12.6.1 Only Cavesson, Drop, Flash, Grackle, Combination and Kineton nosebands are allowed. Only one of the above nosebands may be worn at a time. All nosebands must be correctly fitted and not cause discomfort.

12.7 Whips

12.7.1 No rider may carry or use a whip more than 75cm in length (including flap) or less than 45cm in length overall.

12.7.2 Riders may use a dressage whip when working on the flat but this is strictly forbidden when they start jumping.

12.7.3 Riders may not hit their horse/pony before the start of the course and may be eliminated for doing so at the Judges' discretion.

### **13 RESPONSIBILITY**

13.1 It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that their dress and saddlery are in accordance with the Rules.

13.2 Contravention may entail elimination.

### **14 SALUTE**

14.1 The first competitor in each class shall salute the Ground Jury on behalf of the class. The Ground jury may waive the requirement to salute.

14.2 Riders should not remove their hat when saluting or during prize giving.

14.3 Lowering the head will be considered as saluting.

### **15 FALLS**

15.1 A fall will incur the penalty of elimination.

15.2 Following a fall, a competitor will not be allowed to continue to compete in subsequent competitions unless, after an examination, the medical officials on duty are of the opinion that the competitor is fit enough to compete without incurring further injury.

### **16 CONCUSSION**

16.1 Any member who falls off their pony during a rally or competition, must undergo a medical examination by the paramedic/doctor on duty and be given the 'all clear' before being allowed to remount.

16.2 In the event of concussions, which may occur without the loss of consciousness, riders will not be allowed to ride again that day.

## **17 ORDER OF JUMPING**

- 17.1 After entries have been received, the order of jumping shall be drawn, but at the organisers discretion.
- 17.2 Due regard may be given to the convenience of branches traveling great distances and for competitors riding on more than one horse.
- 17.3 This order shall be maintained throughout the competition.
- 17.4 Competitors who are not ready to jump in their turn may be eliminated.

## **18 DISQUALIFICATION**

- 18.1 The official Steward or Chief Judge may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the Competition for the following offences:
  - 18.1.1 For dangerous riding
  - 18.1.2 If in his opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted
  - 18.1.3 For misuse of whip or spur or ill treatment of the horse
  - 18.1.4 For any breach of the rules
  - 18.1.5 For unseemly behavior, including bad language.

Also refer to FEI Jumping Rules Chapter VII Article 242

## **19 PENALTIES DURING A ROUND**

- 19.1 Refer to FEI Jumping Rules Chapter IV.

## **20 TIME AND SPEED**

- 20.1 Refer to FEI Jumping Rules Chapter V.

## **21 TABLE OF PENALTIES**

- 21.1 Refer to FEI Jumping Rules Chapter VI.

## **22 PROTESTS OR OBJECTIONS**

- 22.1 Apart from the Official Steward and the Officials of the Competition, only District Commissioners or their representatives are entitled to lodge protests or objections.
- 22.2 Protests must be made in writing and addressed to the Regional Chairperson or the Show Organiser. The protest must be accompanied by a deposit (see SA Show Jumping Rules 2014 Chapter 070), which is forfeit unless the Jury of Appeal decides that there were good and reasonable grounds for the objection. Such monies must be paid to the relevant Regional Committee of the S.A. Pony Club. Protests or objections must be made not later than half an hour after the scores have been published.

22.3 The Official Steward or Show organizer shall give their decision in the first instance. If this is not accepted, the Jury of Appeal shall be give their decision after investigation and this decision is final.

## **23 JURY OF APPEAL**

23.1 The Jury shall consist of the Official Steward, one of the Judges and the Show Organiser.

## **24 ABUSE OF THE HORSE**

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

24.2 Also refer to FEI Jumping Rules Chapter VII Article 243.

## **25 EXCESSIVE USE OF THE WHIP**

25.1 The whip may not be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.

25.2 The whip is not to be used after Elimination.

25.3 The whip is never to be used overhand, (for example a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a Horse's head is always excessive use.

25.4 A Horse should never be hit more than three times in a row. If a Horse's skin is broken, it is always considered excessive use of the whip.

25.5 An Athlete identified as misusing or excessively using the whip will be disqualified and may be fined at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

Approved at the National AGM of 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Approved and accepted by:

<b>National Chairperson</b>	:	Leann Morecroft-Davies
<b>Western Cape Regional Chairperson</b>	:	Cindy Muller
<b>KZN Regional Chairperson</b>	:	Rene Ford
<b>Gauteng &amp; Limpopo Regional Chairperson</b>	:	Michéle MacKenzie
<b>Eastern Cape Regional Chairperson</b>	:	Angeline Wheeler