

BUCS Equestrian
Rules for League Matches

EQUL 1 Principles and Pre Match Organisation

- EQUL 1.1 It is the aim of the competition to judge a rider's ability to get the best out of an unknown horse in a limited period of time.
- EQUL 1.2 The Equestrian Management Group formulated these rules. Making an entry for any competition to which these rules apply constitutes acceptance of these rules. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they are fully conversant with the rules, and the team captain's responsibility to ensure that copies of the rules are given to his/her members.
- EQUL 1.3 The aim of the early competitions (League matches and Regional Rounds) is to select the best teams and individuals to progress to the Finals.
- EQUL 1.4 BUCS will organise all the teams in to Leagues of three or four institutions. No League matches should be arranged until the Management Group allocates institutions to their respective Leagues. There is no guarantee that the League will be the same as last year.
- EQUL 1.5 **Each team will consist of four riders (please note that teams cannot compete with two riders)**, all scores will count. See EQUL 9.2 for scoring if a team has only 3 riders. It is in a team's best interests to keep the same team throughout so that if a team fails to qualify as a whole some of its members may have more chance of qualifying as individuals. In accordance with BUCS General **REG 7.5** Teams must be selected as if all the teams are competing at the same time. As such a Championship Team member in league matches may not ride on the Trophy team at league matches.
- EQUL 1.6 In the interests of fairness riders must not compete on their own horse or any horse they have owned or competed on outside of student riding in the last 5 years at any stage of the competition.
- EQUL 1.7 All riders must treat the horses in a fair and sporting manner. Any abuse or violence will not be tolerated and may lead to elimination at the discretion of the judges.
- EQUL 1.8 **Matches must be hosted in the order as published in the Leagues. The first named team must have hosted their home match between 19 October 2011 and 30 November 2011, the second between 1 December 2011 and 31 January 2012, the third between 1 February 2012 and 22 February 2012 and the fourth between 23 February 2012 and 14 March 2012.**
If an institution fails to organise a league competition or cancels it without extenuating circumstances they will be eliminated from competition and their points will be re-awarded amongst the other teams as though the offending team had not taken part in any of the league competitions, individuals therefore, cannot qualify for further stages of the competition.
- EQUL 1.9 All home teams must confirm match dates in writing to BUCS via the online form at least 21 days before the first date of the allotted time slot for their fixture i.e. first named teams must notify BUCS on or before 29 September 2011 **One league point will be deducted from all teams failing to adhere to this regulation.**
- EQUL 1.10 All home teams must confirm match dates by email to other team captains at least 21 days before the match.

- EQUL 1.11 **All mini league matches must be completed by 14 March 2012. No extension will be given after this date.**
- EQUL 1.12 All participating teams must have completed the online Team Contact Form which can be found at www.bucs.org.uk/equestriancontacts by **no later than Wednesday 5 October 2011. One league point per week will be deducted from all teams failing to adhere to this regulation.**
- EQUL 1.13 Teams arriving late for a match shall be deemed absent if they arrive more than one hour after the stated time for the draw. The telephone number of the Riding Centre and host Team Captain should be included in the details sent to each institution.
- EQU 1.14 League matches must be organised so that the Dressage element is followed by the show jumping.
- EQUL 2 During Matches**
- EQUL 2.1 In League matches four horses will be used. The horses standard must be as similar as possible. Where possible the same horses should not be used for both phases. If this is not possible then riders must not ride the same horse for the Dressage and the show jumping phases.
- EQUL 2.2 Each team captain must ensure that the venue has or can find enough horses and they are capable of fulfilling their role in competition when booking the venue. It is recommended that a copy of these rules be given to the Riding Centre involved.
- EQUL 2.3 Each horse will be ridden by three or four competitors. The rider having the best score on each horse will be given zero penalties and the other riders of that horse will be given the number of penalties equal to the difference between their score and the best score on that horse. This process shall be known as differencing the scores. **Eliminated and retired riders shall be given the worst difference penalties of all the riders plus an additional 30 penalties.** For withdrawn riders before a single phase see rule EQUL 2.4
- EQUL 2.4 Each team member must start both the Dressage and Show-Jumping phases in order to receive a final score. **However, if the rider only completes the dressage phase, the score can count for the team.** If they do not start the showjumping phase they should be given the score equivalent of an eliminated rider as per EQUL 2.3
- EQUL 2.5 Current British Dressage and BSJA rules will apply regarding tack to be used except that the judges must allow horses to wear boots/bandages and martingales etc. without penalty if it is the wish of the owner of the horse. Bridles used at league matches should feature a single rein only. The organisers must check the tack of the horses before the competition starts. Only the person in charge of the horses may change the setting of the horses' tack (including the girth) with the exception of the length of the stirrup leathers.
- EQUL 2.6 The tack of the horse must not be changed after the first rider has ridden the horse. The only exception to this may be the change of stirrup leathers if they are not long enough for the riders leg or if the stirrup irons are too narrow to allow the riders boot to fit safely in. In the case of breaking tack during the competition the rider may have a restart for that phase unless they show an intention of finishing the phase.
- EQUL 2.7 All horses must be demonstrated before the dressage and show jumping in the tack and equipment that they will compete in (including spurs and/or whip). Show jump horses must jump the whole course before the first rider mounts.

- EQUL 2.8 The organiser must know the whereabouts of the nearest casualty department and have directions readily available for competitors. If possible, members of the St. Johns Ambulance or equivalent should be present for the show jumping. In all cases the Organiser should make themselves known to the Appointed First Aider at the centre and be aware of their location during the competition.
- EQUL 3 Riders Dress**
- EQUL 3.1 All riders must wear hats approved to PAS 015:1998 / B.S.EN 1384:1997 or ASTM F1163. Long hair should be neatly secured for both Dressage and Show-Jumping.
- EQUL 3.2 It is recommended that body protectors be worn for the Show-Jumping phase to a minimum of BETA 2000 safety level 3. Captains should check with the riding centre where they are organising competitions to ensure that these are not already compulsory.
- EQUL 3.3 Riders should be smartly dressed. Jackets should be tweed or navy/black. Shirts must be worn with a tie or stock. Breeches/jodhpurs should be white, pale yellow or fawn in colour. Plain black or brown long boots or Jodhpur boots with matching black or brown leather gaiters (but not suede half chaps) must be worn. Gloves are compulsory for Dressage and are recommended for Show-Jumping.
- EQUL 3.4 Spurs may be worn if the owner of the horse permits. Where spurs are worn, they must be blunt and without rowels. If the spurs are curved, the curve must point downwards and the shank must face the back. The length of the shank must not exceed 35mm. If, in the opinion of the judge(s), spurs are misused the rider may be eliminated. Non marking spurs with rubber or plastic balls are allowed, plastic spurs are not allowed.
- EQUL 3.5 One whip may be used if the owner of the horse permits. They may be any length for the Dressage but must not exceed 75cm for the show jumping. It may be carried in either hand, but must be in the rein hand while saluting. It may not be picked up if dropped during the test. If, in the opinion of the judge(s), the whip is misused, the rider may be eliminated.
- EQUL 4 The Draw**
- EQUL 4.1 At all competitions all riders should be assigned a number at the first draw which must be worn throughout. During the competition they will be known as that number with no reference to name or university to be present on any paperwork for judges. Riders should keep the same number throughout any one match for both phases.
- EQUL 4.2 Each horse should be assigned a letter.
- EQUL 4.3 All draws will take place in the presence of all the Team Captains and will be performed no earlier than the time stated by the organiser on the invitations to compete. If any team has failed to arrive by that time, their draw may be performed on their behalf. The draw for the Dressage will be held in alphabetical team order and that of the show jumping in reverse alphabetical team order.

EQUL 4.4 Teams captains will draw numbers 1, 2, 3 (or 4) in the order given in Rule EQUL 4.3. This relates to the team order shown on the running order below. Each team rider must then draw A, B, C or D. This relates to the horse that they will ride for that phase.

The running order should be arranged as shown below.

Three Team League			Four Team League		
Running Order	Horse	Team Order	Running Order	Horse	Team Order
1	A	1	1	A	1
2	B	2	2	B	2
3	C	3	3	C	3
4	D	1	4	D	4
5	A	2	5	A	2
6	B	3	6	B	3
7	C	1	7	C	4
8	D	2	8	D	1
9	A	3	9	A	3
10	B	1	10	B	4
11	C	2	11	C	1
12	D	3	12	D	2
			13	A	4
			14	B	1
			15	C	2
			16	D	3

EQUL 5 Dressage

EQUL 5.1 The Dressage test for all League matches is BUCS League Dressage Test 2011/12 (available from the BUCS website)

EQUL 5.2 Each competitor will be allowed a maximum amount of time in which to warm up, 10 minutes for the first competitor on each horse and 7 minutes for subsequent competitors on each horse. The home team is responsible for providing a time keeper. Outside of warm-up time riders must be on a loose rein. Should the venue have different rules relating to warm ups of horses these will take precedence as long as they do not exceed the time allowed above.

EQUL 5.3 The horses are to be demonstrated by a non-competing person before the first rider mounts to the level of the test that they will be used for. If it is not possible for the horses to be demonstrated by a non-competing person then the home team should demonstrate the horses they are not riding in the competition. The demonstration should take place in the competition arena and the time of this demonstration will be about five minutes. The horses should be sufficiently warmed up before this demonstration.

EQUL 5.3 Dressage tests may be commanded at all levels with the exception of the Championships first round and fourth round freestyle.

EQUL 5.4 The Dressage scores will be differenced as defined in rule EQUL 2.3

EQU 6 Judges

- EQUL 6.1 Dressage judges must be of British Dressage List 6 or higher for the League matches. **If the judges are not from the designated British Dressage judges lists, and the consent of all team captains has not been obtained before the competition in writing, the home team may be eliminated from the competition.**
- EQUL 6.2 Judge(s) must not have connections through family, training or in any other way with any of the competitors, whether host or visitors or with owners of horses, and they must not be staff of the host centre.
- EQUL 6.3 The rules and basic ideas behind the BUCS Equestrian Championships should be explained to the Judge(s), stressing that while it is the way the horse is going that should be judged during the Dressage test, the aim of the competition is to assess the Riders ability to get the best out of a strange horse in a limited period of time.

EQU 7 Show-Jumping

- EQUL 7.1 In order that the Show-Jumping phase is to have sufficient importance the course should be as demanding as possible within the capabilities of the horses used. The maximum height for the League matches is 90cm for Championship matches and 85cm for Trophy matches. The course should be designed in consultation with the riding centre staff to meet the standards of the horses, but should have a minimum of seven fences including at least one double, at least two spreads and at least one related distance of four strides or less. A course that tests the rider's ability is essential. It is recommended that a stile or dogleg be used in the course.
- EQUL 7.2 The course builder should be a competent person, approved by the riding centre. They should be familiar with BSJA course building guidelines.
- EQUL 7.3 Each competitor will be allowed a maximum of five minutes warm up time and a maximum of four specified practice jumps. The practice fences may, at the judge's discretion be part of the course. At the start of the practice period, the direction for jumping the practice fences must be specified to all competitors. The practice fences must be jumped in the direction specified – failure to do so will result in elimination from the jumping element. Should the venue have different rules regarding number of jumps allowed these will take precedence as long as they do not exceed the numbers above.
- EQUL 7.4 The Show-Jumping may be judged on style by the Dressage judge, a listed riding clubs equitation judge, a qualified instructor or a suitably qualified person to be approved by BUCS – if the Dressage Judge is unable to judge this element, it is the responsibility of the organising University to inform all the Captains. The Show-Jumping judge will award each competitor a mark out of 10 for each fence as well as collective style marks similar to those used for the dressage test. The following penalties will then be deducted for jumping errors:

Each Knockdown	5
1st Refusal	10
2nd Refusal	20
3rd Refusal	Elimination
Fall of Horse or Rider	Elimination

Error of Course	Elimination
Failure to Salute	Elimination
Commencing Before the Bell	Elimination

- The Show-Jumping scores will be differenced as defined in rule EQU 2.3
- EQUL 7.5 If a horse is eliminated in the show jumping with all riders, the judge must allow all riders who have ridden the eliminated horse another chance to ride an alternative horse. The alternative horse should, preferably, be one that has not already been used for the Show-Jumping phase. If no such horse is available then one that has already show-jumped may be used over a shortened course if necessary. **If any rider is unable to ride the alternative horse due to injury, the collective marks added to the fence that all riders reached will be used as the style mark.**
- EQUL 7.6 Although the judge need not be on the BS Judges panel, they must be conversant with the rules. It is the responsibility of the organising team to ensure this happens.
- EQUL 7.7 The Show-Jumping judge should be approached with any complaints or concerns about a competitor's ability to jump. The judges may prevent a rider from Show-Jumping if they consider the rider to be incapable of managing the course set. The rider may refer such a decision to the Jury of Appeal if he/she considers the decision to be unfair.
- EQUL 8 **Protests**
- EQUL 8.1 **Jury of Appeal**
The Jury will consist of all the Team Captains present together with any members of the Management Group present or the Dressage judge.
- EQUL 8.2 The Jury will consider all protests and complaints and may call upon the judge(s) for advice if necessary.
- EQUL 8.3 Only a Team Captain or Management Group member may lodge protests and complaints. They must be in writing and accompanied by a fee of £10 which will be returned only if the complaint is considered valid by the Jury.
- EQUL 8.4 Protests concerning an abuse of these rules occurring during a competition must be made no later than 30 minutes after the alleged abuse occurred.
- EQUL 8.5 Protests concerning the horses must be made within 10 minutes of their demonstration.
- EQUL 8.6 Protests concerning the final results must be made no later than 30 minutes after the results have been published.
- EQUL 8.7 **Each home team's Athletic Union is responsible for completing and uploading the online results form which can be found at www.bucs.org.uk/equestrianresults within 7 days of the match occurring. Any team not adhering to this regulation will be deducted one league point.**
- The completed score sheet must also be sent to all opposing team captains within the league. The result will stand unless a visiting team challenges the result sheet in which instance it will become a provisional result until checked and the placings confirmed by BUCS. All teams must keep a copy of all final results sheets.**
- EQUL 8.8 Protests after the match must be sent by the institutions Athletic Unions or similar by 5pm the next working day after the match in accordance with BUCS

General **REG 16.3**. BUCS will not overrule the decision of a judge regarding technical offences during matches.

EQUL 8.9 In the event of a problem arising which is not covered by these rules the Jury should refer to the current British Dressage rules and the current BS rules for guidance, and BUCS must be notified.

EQUL 9 Scoring

EQUL 9.1 **A team's total penalties will be the sum of all four Dressage difference penalties and all four Show-Jumping difference penalties.**

EQUL 9.2 If a team only has three competitors the fourth score is the worst score in each discipline plus 30 penalties.

EQUL 9.3 An individual's total penalties will be the sum of their Dressage and Show-Jumping difference penalties.

EQUL 9.4 If the team penalties are equal they shall be split by:

EQUL 9.4.1 The total of the best difference dressage penalties (ie the higher placed team after dressage)

EQUL 9.4.2 The sum of **the four** riders collective marks from the dressage and jumping phases.

EQUL 9.4.3 The total of the four actual dressage marks and **the four** actual show jumping scores.

EQUL 9.5 If the individual scores are equal they shall be split by:

EQUL 9.5.1 The differenced dressage penalties (not marks)

EQUL 9.5.2 The dressage and jumping collective marks combined

EQUL 9.5.3 If, however, they are still equal the placing points shall be divided equally between them

EQUL 9.6 In order to determine the qualifying team and individuals for the regional rounds points will be awarded for placing at league matches as follows:

TEAM		INDIVIDUALS	
1st	4 Points	1st	12 Points
2nd	3 Points	2nd	10Points
3rd	2 Points	3rd	8 Points
4th	1 Point	4th	6 Points
		5th	4 Points
		6th	3 Points
		7th	2 Points
		8th	1 Point

N.B. For tied placing the points are shared — i.e. if two competitors are tied for 3rd place the points of 3rd and 4th are shared between the two competitors, each one receiving 5.5 points.

N.B. Even if there are only three teams in a league the same points are awarded.

EQUL 9.7 The team with the most points and the two individuals, not on the best team, with the highest points will qualify for the Regional Round.

EQUL 9.8 If two teams or individuals are on equal points at the completion of the League matches they will be split by the sum of their total penalties from all the League matches.

EQUL 9.9 Each institution should keep a record of all the penalties including collective marks at all the League matches. Each institution must send via e-mail a fully completed scoresheet from their home League match to the other teams in their league within 7 days of their League match taking place – please refer to EQUL 8.7.