

MERCIAN INTER-RIDING CLUB LEAGUE

RULE BOOK 2018

The Mercian Team events began in 1984, when Jan Williams of Wolverley (then Stourbridge) Riding Club invited representatives from Affiliated Riding Clubs in an area roughly defined as being 'along the M5' to an informal meeting at which The Mercian Group was formed.

The original aims were to:

- avoid clashes of show dates by Riding Clubs
- exchange schedules and information with other Clubs across the Area
- foster inter-club competition at a level below official Riding Club Area level, which was felt to be getting beyond the reach of many of the riders that local Riding Clubs cater for.

Whilst the original aims of sharing information still applies, the inter-club competition became the key driver. Clubs now compete for a trophy awarded to the Club amassing the most points across the season at Mercian events.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Alvechurch Riding Club (BRC Area 5)

Bromyard Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Cheltenham Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Frampton Family Riding Club (BRC Area 9)

Shropshire South Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Worcester and District Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Bewdley Bridle Club (BRC Area 18)

Bromsgrove Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Crothorne and Evesham Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Malvern Hills Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Vale of Arrow Riding Club (BRC Area 15)

Wyvern Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

GENERAL RULES: ENTRIES

1. All competitions are open to any senior member (ie. over 18) of an Affiliated riding club within the Mercian Inter-Club League. Junior members may compete in special events organised through the year.
2. Riders may ride for more than one club during the Mercian season, but not for different clubs on the same day.
3. No horse may compete at different levels or sections on the same day.
4. Where open classes are run on the same day and a rider has entered the same height/test as their Mercian entry, they must ride their Mercian entry first.
5. Horses must be entered under the name on their passport.
6. There are no restrictions on horses height, but all horses must be 4 years or over.
7. A club may enter as many teams as they wish into a competition, subject to rule 71.
8. All entries must be made by the closing date of the competition. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organising club.
9. Any changes to teams, riders or horses after an entry has been submitted, must be communicated to the organiser as soon as possible. **Any changes on the day are taken at the organisers discretion and must be presented to the secretary at least 30 mins before the start of the class.**
10. Unless otherwise stated, all competitions are for teams of four, with the best three scores to count.
11. Individuals from Mercian clubs may be entered into Mercian classes and are eligible for any individual rosettes. No points will be earned towards the Mercian League.
12. If a club is struggling to put together a team, they may join with another Mercian club to enter a mixed team. Points earned will be split equally between the two clubs, irrespective of how many members from each club are on the team.
13. All competitions are run under current BRC rules, except where superseded by specific rules below.

SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

ARENA EVENTING / ONE-DAY-EVENT

14. This is to be a **three phase event**, including dressage, show-jumping and cross-country. Some or all of which can take place on surface or on grass.
15. Novice Section: DR = BD Intro. SJ / XC = maximum height 60cm or 2'0
16. Intermediate Section: DR = BD or BRC Prelim. SJ / XC = maximum height 70cm or 2'3

COMBINED TRAINING

17. This is to be a **two phase event**, including dressage and show-jumping.
18. Novice Section: BD Intro. SJ = maximum height 60cm or 2'0
19. Intermediate Section: BD or BRC Prelim. SJ = maximum height 70cm or 2'3
20. Classes may be run as two riders per section in each team (as per BRC) or with two classes, all four team members in the same section, at the organisers discretion.

DRESSAGE

21. Teams of four, each rider to ride a different test.
22. 2 riders to ride a BD Intro test and 2 riders to ride a BD or BRC Prelim test. Best three scores to count irrespective of which test is ridden.

DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

23. Tests are BD Intro Freestyle and BD Prelim Freestyle.
24. Teams of three that can be made up of any combination of Intro and Prelim tests (ie. one rider riding in the Intro class, the other two riding in the prelim class).
25. Arenas can be 40m x 20m or 60m x 20m at the organisers discretion.
26. All three scores to count.

EVENTER CHALLENGE / TWO PHASE

27. This will be a **two phase event**, including show jumping and cross-country.
28. The two phases may run concurrently or riders may be given separate times for both phases.
29. Novice Section: maximum height 60cm or 2'0
30. Intermediate Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3

HUNTER TRIALS

31. Novice Section: maximum height 60cm or 2'0
32. Intermediate Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
33. Teams may consist of all members riding the same section, or two members in each section, at the organiser's discretion.

SHOWING

34. One member in each team to ride in a different class.
35. All classes are Ridden and the judge may choose to ride.
36. Class 1: Riding Club Horse (horse must be in a snaffle bridle and will be expected to jump a single fence of 70cm/2'3)
37. Class 2: Veteran Horse (horse or pony to be 17 years or over)
38. Class 3: Working Hunter (jumps maximum height 70cm/2'3)
39. Class 4: Coloured (open to piebald, skewbald, tri-coloured, dun, palomino, spotted or cremello)
40. In the event of a team tie, the results of the Riding Club Horse class will decide the winner.

SHOW JUMPING

41. Novice Section: maximum height 60cm or 2'0
42. Intermediate Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
43. May be run as single phase or two phase at the organiser's discretion.

STYLE JUMPING

44. Novice Section: maximum height 60cm or 2'0
45. Intermediate Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
46. Classes may be run as two riders per section in each team (as per BRC) or with two classes, all four team members in the same section, at the organisers discretion.

QUIZ

47. All members of the Quiz team **MUST** be members of the club
48. The organising club can choose format, however, it usually consists off approximately 10 rounds and has a least one horse related round.

OTHER COMPETITIONS

49. If a club wishes to run a competition that does not fall under one of the above categories, they must submit a copy of the proposed schedule to the Mercian chair, along with details on how the event will be scored.

SCORING

50. With the exception of the Quiz, all team places are calculated using the individual arena placings of the all team members.
51. In each arena or section, the winner earns one point, 2nd place 2 points and so on down the rankings. Every competitor therefore 'earns' a score unless disqualified.
52. The team with the **lowest** overall score will be declared the winner.
53. In ODE and Hunter Trials, there should only be a short timed section. This time is only used to decide places in the event of a tie.

ELIGIBILITY

Please refer to Appendix 1: Eligibility. In addition, the following rules apply:

54. All eligibility rules are **discipline specific**. For example, a horse and rider combination that is not able to compete in the Dressage, may still take part in the One-Day-Event.
55. A horse and rider combination competing at Area level cannot compete at a lower level at a Mercian competition, unless they have been downgraded (see rule 58).
56. **A horse that has been placed in the first three at a BRC Championship cannot compete in the same discipline at Mercian level for 3 years.**
57. **A horse that has been placed 1st to 6th at an Area Qualifier cannot compete in the same discipline at Mercian level for 2 years.**
58. While every effort has been made to cover all eventualities within appendix 1, where there are shortcomings, team managers are asked to make entries in the spirit of the Mercian Group principles.
59. If a team manager wishes to officially downgrade a member, they must put the case in writing to the Mercian Chair, who will review the case. The case must be presented at least a month before the closing date of the desired competition. The Chair's decision will be final, but can be re-presented the following year on appeal.
60. The minimum penalty for entering non-eligible members is to have the points from that competition deducted from the league. Further penalties may be imposed if the club is found to be constantly breaking the eligibility rules. All penalties are at the discretion of the Mercian committee.

POINTS LEAGUE

61. Points are awarded as follows: 1st = 8 points; 2nd = 7 points; 3rd = 6 points; 4th = 5 points; 5th = 4 points; 6th = 3 points. Any unplaced teams that participates = 1 point.
62. While a club may enter as many teams as they like (subject to rule 7 and 71), only the two highest placed teams will be awarded 'place' points (ie. for 1st to 6th). Any further teams that are placed for that club will only earn 1 participation point. Place points will then be awarded to the next placed team from a different club.
63. The **OVERALL** league will be calculated on the 6 best places earned by each club. (for example, a club that wins 6 classes in the year will be placed above a club that wins 5 and comes 2nd in one).
64. In the event of a tie, the 7th best place will be taken into account, then the 8th, and so on down the line until the tie is broken, or one of the clubs involved does not have another score.
65. A separate **FLATWORK** league will be calculated as per rule 62 and 63, but only covers points won at Dressage, Dressage to Music, Showing and the Quiz.
66. A separate **JUMPING** league will be calculated as per rule 62 and 63, but only covers points won at Show Jumping, Style Jumping and Hunter Trials.
67. A separate **COMBINED** league will be calculated as per rule 62 and 63, but only covers points won at Combined Training, One-Day-Event, Eventer Challenge and Two Phase Competitions.

RUNNING A COMPETITION

68. Any club wishing to run a competition within the league must put forward their proposals at the annual AGM held in the preceding year.
69. Final dates must be confirmed and related to the Mercian Chair before **April 1st**. Any dates confirmed after this, **MUST** be discussed with the Chair before schedules are finalised to ensure that no dates clash.
70. Where possible, Mercian events should not clash with BRC Area Qualifiers (NB. This effects Area 5, 9, 15 and 18 - the Mercian secretary will keep a list of dates as reference).
71. An organising club may restrict the number of teams entered per club if limited by time or space at the venue. However, if spaces subsequently become available, then these must be offered to the clubs already entered on an equal basis.
72. Schedules must clearly state the height of fences in cm or feet & inches.
73. Rosettes **MUST** be awarded 1st to 6th (minimum) on the day to all team and individual places.
74. Schedules must be sent to the Mercian Secretary at least 1 month before the closing date of entries. Schedules will be distributed to all Team Managers on receipt.
75. A full copy of the results must be sent to the Mercian Secretary within a week of the competition.

MERCIAN COMMITTEE 2018

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GOOD LUCK!