



THE BARRIER SPRING FESTIVAL: NORTHERN IRELAND 2024

ARENA EVENTING RULES

(For England & Wales / Scotland see Regional Rules)

Valid for 2023/2024 Competitions

**Championships to be held at Castle Irvine
23rd – 25th March 2024**

Issued by The Pony Club
Lowlands Equestrian Centre, Old Warwick Road, Warwick, CV35 7AX
Tel: 02476 698300 Email: eventing@pcuk.org
www.pcuk.org

Except where varied in these rules, this competition will be judged in accordance with the Pony Club Arena Eventing Rule Book as per below:

Preliminary Rounds and the Championships will run in accordance with the current Pony Club Eventing Rule Book and The Pony Club Spring Festival Arena Eventing Rules 2023/24.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen circumstances, it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible to the intention of these rules.

SADDLERY AND DRESS

Cross Country compliant XC kit and Saddlery should be worn. The Pony Club or British Eventing Saddlery and Dress rules apply at all Preliminary Rounds. The Pony Club Saddlery and Dress rules apply at the Championships.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions of horse/pony or rider will not be accepted at the Championships.

QUALIFYING STAGES

There are two stages of the Barrier Spring Festival Arena Eventing competition in Northern Ireland:

1. Preliminary Rounds for Arena Eventing will be held between April 2023 and March 2024.
2. Those who were successful at the Preliminary Rounds will go forward to the Barrier Spring Festival Championships in 2024. Branches at this stage may combine three or four qualifiers at any level to create a mixed level team, with no more than two members at the same level.

Eligibility Rules

ELIGIBILITY

Open to individual Pony Club Branch and Centre Members.

Please note non-members of The Pony Club are allowed to compete in any Preliminary Round (if held) but must become fully paid-up members to compete at the Championships.

70cm class - Riders must be aged 13 and under on 1st January 2023.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Multiple Horses – competitors may qualify a maximum of two horses for the Championships in any one class. In the event of a rider qualifying more than two horses for the Championships, they must nominate which two they will take at the Preliminary Round. The other qualifying place will be passed down the line.

Multiple Riders – horses may be ridden by up to two different riders at a Preliminary Round but by only one rider at the Championships.

Multiple Levels – Riders/horses/ponies and/or a combination of horse and rider CAN qualify for more than one Championship Class.

Riders cannot compete in more than two consecutive classes per day on the same horse/pony. Horses/ponies cannot compete more than once in each class or in more than two classes on the day.

TEAM COMPETITION – SHOW JUMPING, ARENA EVENTING AND DRESSAGE

Should a Branch/Centre have three or four members qualify at any Preliminary Competition, at any level, these members can combine to compete as a mixed level team at the Spring Festival Championships. The team members can compete at different levels with a maximum of two members at the same level. A team must comprise of at least three members (i.e., one member may ride two horses) and the top three scores to count at the Championships. Teams must be declared prior to entries closing for the Spring Festival Championships.

TEAM COMPETITION SCORING

Points shall be awarded to each team competitor depending on their placing (1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points etc.) relative only to other team competitors in that class and not on their overall placing in that class. Any competitors riding as an individual in the same class as team competitors should not be given points. The points for the three best-placed team members shall be added together to give the team score. The winning team will be the team with the least points.

Preliminary Round Rules

Held in Northern Ireland (England/Wales and Scotland have a separate Spring Festival) from 1st April 2023 – March 2024.

Preliminary Round dates can be found on The Pony Club website.

There will be no Area Competitions for Northern Ireland. Combinations that qualify at their Preliminary Round will go on to the Northern Ireland Spring Festival Championships.

Pony Club members and non-members may compete and qualify at Preliminary Rounds in Area 17. Non-members in a qualifying position must join before the date of the Championships if they wish to compete.

Arena Eventing 2023-2024 Championships to be held in conjunction with The Pony Club Barrier Animal Health Spring Festival 2024 at Castle Irvine.

NUMBERS TO QUALIFY – 70cm/80cm/90cm/100cm

The first **SIX** highest placed from Area 17 in each section at each Preliminary Round and any tying for these places qualify for the Championships.

Competitors may qualify a maximum of two horses and/or ponies for any one Championship Class.

Riders/horses/ponies and/or combination of horse and rider can qualify for more than one Championship Class.

QUALIFIER CARDS

Organisers should contact Laura at Head Office for downloadable Qualifier Cards at laura.armstrong@pcuk.org.

PASSING DOWN THE LINE

On the day - If a competitor is unable to go to the Championships, then the qualifying places will be passed down the line. Please ensure every competitor confirms to the organiser/steward that they are intending to enter the Championships. **Organisers should check the published list of recent qualifiers to ensure Qualifier places are passed down the line on the day.**

After the Preliminary Round – If a competitor is unable to go to the Championships, they must notify area17@pcuk.org as soon as possible so that their qualifying place can be passed down the line. This will only be done **up until five days prior to the Championships.**

PRELIMINARY ROUND ENTRY FEES

Entry fee to be set by the organising Branch/Centre or Venue of this. The Organisers will be responsible for providing rosettes.

Please contact the relevant Show Secretary for details, these can also be found on The Pony Club website.

CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEES

Championship Classes Entry Fee: £35.00

Entries for competitors who have qualified for the Championships, should be made through the organiser.

Entry deadline is TBC

PRELIMINARY ROUND COMPETITION RESULTS

All Preliminary Round organisers must submit the results of their competition, including the combinations in a qualifying position as soon as the competition has finished. If the competition is cancelled or there are no qualifiers, please ensure the office is notified.

All qualifier competitions are required to submit their results. Results should be recorded either via www.ponyclubresults.co.uk or by using the [templates available from the website](#). All results should be submitted via the online form.

Results can be submitted online at <https://events.pcuk.org/barrier-spring-festival-qualifier-results-202324-ni>

Please ensure you submit your results quickly after your event as this ensures the published list of current Qualifiers is up-to-date and passed down places can be offered.

FIRST AID

See The Pony Club Health and Safety Rule Book.

GUIDELINES FOR PONY CLUB ARENA EVENTING

Arena Eventing is a two-phase competition, which can be run on either an indoor arena, outdoor surface or a grass arena. General rules follow the current Pony Club Eventing Rule book except as modified below.

Competitors will jump a course of show jumps immediately followed by a course of cross-country style fences**. There will be no more than 20 (dependent on size of arena) jumping efforts in total. **This may be increased to 25 jumping efforts at the Championships.**

The course at the Spring Festival Championships will finish with the last fence as a show jump, the joker fence, which will be approximately 5cm higher than the rest of the course.

If entry numbers exceed expectations, the competition at the Spring Festival Championships may be run in two arenas, show jumping in one and the cross-country section in another with only the cross-country section being timed.

The optimum time should be based on a speed of 325mpm **for PC70, 350mpm for PC80,** and 375mpm for PC90 and PC100.

Horses/Ponies must be aged 5 years old and over.

Stop Watches are not permitted.

The winner will be the competitor with the lowest number of penalties. In the event of a tie the winner will be the one closest to the optimum time.

There should be a drawn order and, where possible, approximate start times given in advance of the day

The course will only be open for walking before the class starts.

The Judge's decision is final.

PENALTIES

SJ Phase:

Knocking down obstacle	4 penalties
First disobedience of horse	4 penalties
Second disobedience of horse in whole course	8 penalties
Third disobedience of horse in whole course	Elimination*
(Each circle or crossing tracks between fences counts as one disobedience)	
First fall of rider	Elimination*
Fall of Horse	Elimination*
Error of course not rectified	Elimination*

Failure to start or jump next fence within 60 seconds	Elimination*
Starting before the Bell	Elimination*
Continuing the course without a hat, or with chinstrap undone	Elimination*

*Competitors eliminated in this phase may not proceed to the XC phase

XC Phase

Knocking down an obstacle	4 penalties
First refusal, run-out or circle of horse at obstacle	20 penalties
Second refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle	40 penalties
Third refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle	Elimination
Four refusals around the course	Elimination
Fall of horse	Elimination
Fall of rider	Elimination
Error of Course not rectified	Elimination
Horse trapped in obstacle	Elimination
Horse resisting rider for 60 consecutive seconds anywhere on the course	Elimination
Failure to cross the finish line mounted	Elimination
Continuing the course without a hat, or with chinstrap undone	Elimination
Time will be taken overall.	
Exceeding the time limit	Elimination
For every commenced second in excess of the optimum time	0.4 penalty
Every commenced second in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time	0.4 penalty
Time limit is twice the optimum time.	

NOTES

****XC Portable Fences/Fixed Fences** – These must not be used unless they can be properly and safely anchored. (See Eventing Organisers Handbook, and [Guidance on Cross Country Fences](#). In their place, and especially on surfaces, knock down substitutes should be used, i.e. rustic show jumps or those supplied by specialist manufacturers such as “Jump for Joy”

If local conditions dictate, Organisers can choose not to time the Show Jumping Phase, but the XC phase must be timed.

Safety Cups – Safety Cups are mandatory for all Pony Club Show Jumping Competitions including any practice fences. To be used on the back rails of spread fences and middle and back rails of triple bars. They should also be used for all knock down fences in the XC Phase.

It is recommended a BS or BE Course Designer, preferably one with Arena Eventing experience, is used if possible. For Area Competitions this is mandatory. If the course designer is not qualified, then approval must be sought from The Pony Club.

Courses should be built within the dimensions set out in The Pony Club Eventing Rules.

First Aid – See The Pony Club Health and Safety Rule Book.