

NCHTA EVENTER TRIAL, 30 June 2013

As indicated in the draw, the competition commences at 9 am with the Pairs. All of the cross country courses will be open for walking (and maps available) from 7.30 am. The Timed Handiness section of the Eventer Trial competition will also be ready for inspection from 7.30 am for all height levels, as will the Showjumping course for the 60 cm Eventer Trial. Before the start of each subsequent Eventer Trial class there will a very brief opportunity (10 minutes max) for competitors to walk the Showjumping course for that class.

The following describes the nature and rules of the competitions to be conducted.

CROSS COUNTRY PAIRS

The course will consist of 15 cross country obstacles, all with a 60 cm option and with several also including options at 80 cm and/or 95 cm. The optimum time will be calculated at a speed of 350 metres per minute (the usual pace for 60 cm cross country). Time will be taken when the second rider crosses the finish line and time penalties will be calculated in the normal way for unofficial eventing (i.e. penalties for being more than 20 seconds inside the optimum time as well as for exceeding that time).

Refusals will be penalised in the normal way, with three refusals at a single fence (by the same horse) constituting elimination for the pair who must then leave the course at a walk. Similarly, any fall of horse or rider constitutes elimination. There is no set number of total refusals allowed on course by the pair collectively, but the XC controllers reserve the right to pull up any competitors who they believe are not coping safely with the course and ask them to leave at a walk.

Three of the obstacles will be designated as Dressing Fences, where the object is for the two riders to jump as closely as possible together, with marks (0-10) being awarded based on how closely synchronised the jumps are. The fence judges' decisions on these marks are NOT subject to any form of appeal. Any time and/or jumping penalties incurred will be deducted from the Dressing Marks and the winning Pair will be the one with the highest score. In the event of tied placings the Pair closest to the optimum time will be awarded the higher place.

Fancy Dress: Competitors in the Pairs are encouraged to wear fancy dress and there will be a prize for the best dressed pair. Note, however, that full cross country safety gear must be worn.

EVENTER TRIAL CLASSES

The Eventer Trial classes involve completion of a Showjumping round of 8-10 efforts, proceeding immediately into a Timed Handiness section, and from there onto the cross country course proper.

Penalties in the **Showjumping** will be calculated in the normal way, except that time penalties will not be recorded. A competitor who falls in the showjumping phase will not be permitted to continue. A competitor eliminated in the showjumping due to multiple refusals may be allowed to continue (at the discretion of the judge in the Handiness phase) but may subsequently be asked to leave the course if considered unsafe.

The **Timed Handiness** section will consist of 4 sets of obstacles, with “Learner” options for two of them. The last obstacle in this phase requires the competitor to enter the cross country start box through a gate which must be opened (but doesn’t have to be closed again). There will be a maximum time allowed to complete this phase. If the competitor hasn’t entered the start box when that time expires the judge will blow a whistle and open the gate to the start box. The competitor will then proceed directly into the box and be penalised for any obstacle not completed. Penalties in this phase are as shown in the table below.

Each refusal at non-learner obstacle	20 Penalties
Each refusal at a learner option	40 Penalties
Taking L option without first attempting non-L obstacle	60 Penalties
Taking L option after refusal(s) at non-L obstacle	20 Penalties
Total of 3 Refusals at single obstacle or its L option (rider goes on to next obstacle)	100 Penalties (total)
Obstacle not completed in correct order or within time	100 Penalties (total)
Fall of Horse and/or Rider	Elimination (may not continue)

From the start box, competitors commence the **Cross Country** phase proper. This will run under normal rules, except that there will be no time taken and no time penalties. The total number of jumping efforts in the cross country and handiness phases combined will be within the limits set for one day events at the relevant height level.

The winner will be the competitor with the smallest number of penalties in the three phases combined. In the event of equality of placing the faster time through the Timed Handiness section will gain the higher place.