



Bluegrass Horse Feed Schools Show Jumping Open Team Championship Rules & Qualifier Information

Qualifiers - 5 schools teams from Ulster Region (includes Cavan, Monaghan & Donegal) and 5 schools teams from the rest of the Republic of Ireland will be eligible to compete at Balmoral Show on Saturday 16 May 2026.

For schools in the Ulster Region, the winning school team in the Open Class at each of the qualifying shows will qualify for the final at Balmoral. The top 5 schools from the Equestrian Interschools Ireland League will qualify from ROI. Should a qualified team be unable to compete at Balmoral Show, then the next eligible team from that qualifying venue will be invited to compete.

Teams - A qualifying school team must consist of a minimum of 3 athletes and a maximum of 4, all currently in full time 2nd level education at the same school they represent.

No athlete/animal may compete more than once in the same team.

Animals may not be schooled at the competition venue by anyone other than the athlete competing on the animal taking part in the competition.

Should a qualified school fail to participate at the Championships without acceptable evidence for their non-appearance, this school will not be eligible to compete for a qualifying place in 2027.

Once a school has qualified, final team athlete/animal combinations taking part must be declared at entry, completed online at www.balmoralshow.co.uk/competitions/show-jumping/schools-team-show-jumping no later than **Tuesday 14 April 2026**. Late entries will not be accepted.

Competition Format - Competitions will be run under SJI rules. At the Championship and at all participating qualifying venues, the competition will be run as a Competition in Two phases – Article 274.5.3. Maximum height of fences will be 1m.

- A 45 second countdown will operate.
- Penalties in the first phase will be scored, and time noted, but the bell will not be rung, and the athlete will continue to the second phase, except in the case of a fall of horse and/or athlete, when the bell will be rung to signal the end of the competition for that combination.
- Elimination in the first phase for jumping penalties will NOT automatically lead to non-participation in the second phase, unless the Ground Jury feel this is in the best interests of the horse/athlete, in which case the bell will be rung to signal the end of the round.
- Penalties in both phases will be as based on SJI rules. Article 236 Table A.
- The best three scores in the first phase, together with the best three scores and time in the second phase, will establish the team's total score. These will not necessarily be the same athletes.
- Should there be equality of penalties and time for first place, a jump off will take place over a shortened course, by one athlete of each team, selected by the Chef d'Equipe. At the Championship, should there be further equalities for either 2nd or 3rd place, a jump off will also take place, as above, to ensure there are three clear winning teams of the Championship for 1st 2nd and 3rd places.

Table of Faults

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| • Knockdown | 4 faults |
| • First disobedience | 4 faults |
| • Second disobedience | 8 faults |
| • Third disobedience | Elimination |
| • Fall of horse/pony or rider | Elimination |
| • Exceeding the time limit | Elimination |
| • Exceeding the time allowed in the 1 st and 2 nd rounds | - 1 penalty point for every 4 seconds commenced. |
| • Exceeding the time allowed in the jump off against the clock | - 1 penalty point for each second commenced or fraction of a second. |

Judging - The Ground Jury for qualifying competitions & Championships must have at least one judge at Senior National Level or above, and one judge of National level or above, plus a scorer per arena. The decision of the Ground Jury is final.

Each venue hosting a qualifying competition must submit the name of the Senior Judge and Course Designer to Vickie White, RUAS Offices, at least one week before the date of the agreed qualifier.

Course - The Course Designer at the qualifying rounds must be Regional level or above. The Course Designer at the Championships must be Senior National level or above.

- The first phase is a course of 7 to 9 obstacles with or without combinations.
- The second phase takes place over 4 to 6 obstacles, which may include 1 combination.
- Speed will be 325mpm.
- The first fence in phase 1 must not exceed 0.95cms.
- There must be two vertical obstacles in each round at maximum height of 1.0m.
- Maximum spread 1.20m. Triple Bar 1.30m.
- A jump off, if required, will have a maximum of 7 fences which will include a two stride double combination.

Rules - All competitors are also bound by the general regulations and instructions for the Society's Annual Show as contained in the main Prize Schedule and Equine prize schedule which are available online.

It is not possible to provide for every conceivable eventuality in these Rules. If there is no rule to deal specifically with a particular circumstance, or if the literal interpretation of the pertinent rule would result in obvious injustice, reference may be made to the SJI/FEI rules. Ultimately the RUAS Showjumping Sub-Committee will make a decision based on common sense and fair play, thus reflecting as closely as possible the intention of these rules.