

# British Reining

## Member's Handbook

### Introduction

This handbook is issued with the intention of providing a guide to the fundamental rules for Reining competitions in Great Britain and International Team events.



*British Reining*

## Mission Statement

- To act as the Official Governing Body for the sport of Reining in Great Britain
- To promote the sport and increase participation
- To provide competing opportunities for members in BR and NRHA shows and classes
- To improve performance of both riders and horses through training and coaching programmes
- To recognise the success of members and their horses
- To select and manage British teams in International competition
- To promote the highest standards of care and welfare for all Reining horses

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# Association Structure

## General

British Reining is a Company Limited by Guarantee. This is the normal structure for membership organisations that gives protection from liability and equal rights to all members. It is the form of the other major equestrian disciplines and the BEF.

As a Company, the Association has a Memorandum and Articles of Association. These are legal documents, but have been kept as simple and non-limited as possible to act as a broad framework within which day to day rules and procedures are established as the Association Constitution.

Our Constitution is thus more prescriptive than the Memorandum and Articles of Association and it is the Constitution which is included in this handbook. Copies of the framework Memorandum and Articles of Association can be obtained from the British Reining Administrative Office if required.

The Associations Registered Office is at the British Equestrian Federation.

The Association's Administrative Office is:

Home Farm,  
Sheep Street,  
Leighton Bromswold,  
Cambridgeshire  
PE28 5AY  
Email [chair@britishreining.co.uk](mailto:chair@britishreining.co.uk)

The supreme governing body of the Association is the membership in General Meeting. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held in the first three months of the year, normally March, and Extra-ordinary General Meetings can be held if required.

Normal day to day running of the Association is vested in a Council elected by the membership. A minimum of one third of Council places are vacated each year and elections held to fill them. Existing Council members are free to stand again. The Council is supported by a number of Committees manned partly by Council members and also by other non-elected volunteers.

A comprehensive up-to-date list of Council and Committee members and their roles and responsibilities is provided on the British Reining website: [www.britishreining.co.uk](http://www.britishreining.co.uk).

## **Affiliations/Memberships/Useful Contacts**

British Equestrian Federation (BEF)  
Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)  
National Equine Database (NED)  
National Reining Horse Association (NRHA)  
UK Sport

## Useful Addresses and Websites

British Equestrian Federation  
National Agricultural Centre  
Stoneleigh Park  
Kenilworth  
Warkshire, CV8 2RH  
Tel: 02476 698871

National Reining Horse Association  
3000 NW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City  
OK 73107 -5320  
USA  
Tel: 00 1 405 946 7400 (time difference -6 hours GMT)

<b>British Reining</b>	<a href="http://www.britishreining.co.uk"><u>www.britishreining.co.uk</u></a>
<b>BEF</b>	<a href="http://www.bef.co.uk"><u>www.bef.co.uk</u></a>
<b>FEI</b>	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org"><u>www.horsesport.org</u></a>
<b>UK Sport</b>	<a href="http://www.uksport.gov.uk"><u>www.uksport.gov.uk</u></a>
<b>NRHA</b>	<a href="http://www.nrha.com"><u>www.nrha.com</u></a>
<b>Drug info email</b>	<a href="mailto:drug-free@uksport.gov.uk"><u>drug-free@uksport.gov.uk</u></a>
<b>Drug info database</b>	<a href="http://www.uksport.gov.uk/did"><u>www.uksport.gov.uk/did</u></a>
<b>National Equine Database</b>	<a href="http://www.ned.uk.com"><u>www.ned.uk.com</u></a>
<b>WADA</b>	<a href="http://www.wada-ama.org"><u>www.wada-ama.org</u></a>

# Constitution

## 1. Name

The Association's name shall be 'BRITISH REINING' hereinafter referred to as the Association. It shall be incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital.

## 2. Objectives

The Association's objectives are:

- 2.1. to promote the sport of reining.
- 2.2. to provide tuition and riding opportunities for all levels of rider with clinics and shows offering classes from elite level competition to classes where novice riders can gain experience.
- 2.3. to provide a full range of BR classes, affiliation arrangements and incentives and awards to encourage and recognise member's achievements.
- 2.4. to promote NRHA classes and programmes.
- 2.5. to sanction and promote FEI Reining events in Great Britain.
- 2.6. to maintain suitable and transparent means of British Reining Team selection and to manage Team participation in International Competitions.
- 2.7. to publicise the sport through press and other organisations.
- 2.8. to liaise with and affiliate to the NRHA, FEI and BEF.

2.9. to liaise with other European and World bodies.

### **3. Membership**

3.1. Categories of membership and annual subscription rates shall be decided by the AGM.

3.2. Membership shall be for one year and shall be renewable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each year.

### **4. General Meetings**

4.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Council shall appoint. All General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.

4.2. Notice of General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Association to the most recent address notified to the membership secretary.

4.3. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting, or the non-receipt of a notice, by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

4.4. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present. A quorum shall be three members present in person or 10% of the membership, whichever is the greater. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, or if during a meeting such a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, shall be dissolved; or in any other case, shall be adjourned to a date as soon as is practicable for the meeting to be reconvened.



## **5. Annual General Meeting**

- 5.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year, in the first three months, at a date and venue decided by Council.
- 5.2. The Council shall provide a minimum of ten weeks notice of the AGM to all members.
- 5.3. No later than four weeks before the AGM the Council shall send to all members the final agenda for the AGM together with other such documents and papers relevant to the AGM as are available at that time.
- 5.4. Any motion proposed by one full member and seconded by another full member shall be included in the agenda for the AGM. Such motions shall be signed and delivered in writing to the Secretary not less than six weeks before the date appointed for the meeting.
- 5.5. The final agenda of the AGM shall include: approval of the minutes of the previous AGM and of any Extraordinary General Meetings held since the last AGM, the report of the Council and consideration of the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet.

## **6. Extraordinary General Meeting**

- 6.1. The Council may, whenever it sees fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). Not less than three weeks notice shall be given of the meeting. The reason for the meeting shall be clearly specified in the notice and only that matter shall be considered at the meeting.
- 6.2. An EGM shall also be convened by the Council on receipt of a requisition from not less than one tenth of the membership.

Such requisition must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Association, state the objects of the meeting, and be signed by the requisitionists. It may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more requisitionists.

- 6.3. Any EGM convened as a result of a request from the members shall be held within four weeks of such request except that if the request is received less than eight weeks prior to the AGM then the Council may leave the issue to be discussed at the AGM.

## **7. Proceedings at General Meetings**

- 7.1. At any General Meeting a motion put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) a poll is demanded by the Chairman; or by at least two members present in person or by proxy.
- 7.2. If a poll is duly demanded it shall be taken in such manner as the Chairman directs and the result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which a poll was demanded.
- 7.3. A poll demanded on the election of a Chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time as the Chairman of the meeting directs and any business other than that upon which a poll has been demanded may be preceded with, pending the take of the poll.
- 7.4. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn and if withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands, before the demand was made.

- 7.5. Unless a poll be demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a motion, on a show of hands, has been carried or lost by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect recorded in the Minutes of the meeting, shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number of the votes recorded in favour or against such resolution.
- 7.6. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show or hands or on a poll, the Chairman of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded, shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

## **8. Votes of Members**

- 8.1. Every full member shall have one vote.
- 8.2. No member shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all monies presently payable by him to the Association have been paid.
- 8.3. Any member of the Association entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person whether a member or not, as his proxy to attend and vote instead of him; such proxy may only vote as directed by the member or abstain if given such authority by the member. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be executed in writing by the appointer in any form appropriate to the circumstances as Council may approve.
- 8.4. Proxy votes shall not be counted in any vote taken by a show of hands but on a poll votes may be given either personally or by proxy.

## **9. The Council**

- 9.1. Day to day management of the Association shall be vested in a Council, which shall be elected by a postal ballot of all full members. Council members will be the Directors of the Association and collectively act as the Board of the Company.
- 9.2. The Council shall consist of a minimum and maximum number determined by the Ordinary Resolution in General Meeting of the Association. The officers of the Association shall be appointed by the Council.
- 9.3. Along with initial notification of the AGM the Council shall notify all members of the number of vacancies to be filled and of the closing date for nominations, which shall be six weeks before the AGM.
- 9.4. Candidates for election to Council must be nominated in writing by two other full members of the Society and such nominations must be accompanied by a written declaration of the candidate's willingness to serve as a member of Council. Nominations must be received by the person and time specified by Council.
- 9.5. When the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies an election will be held. A list of candidates, their manifestoes (where provided) and a ballot form shall be sent to all members four weeks before the AGM. The deadline and place for the return of ballot forms shall be clearly notified by Council. Completed ballot forms must be received at the place and by the time specified. The results of the election shall be declared at the AGM and newly elected members shall take office at the end of the AGM.
- 9.6. Each year at least one third of the Council positions shall be vacated. Council members to retire shall be those who have

served the longest. Where there is an equality of time served the member(s) to retire shall be established by lot.

- 9.7. A retiring member of the Council shall be eligible for re-election.
- 9.8. There shall not be more than two serving Council members from one household.
- 9.9. The members of the Council shall be paid all reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by them in attending meetings of the Council or any committee of the Council or general meetings of the Association or in connection with the business of the Association.
- 9.10. Should a Council member vacate office before the expiration of his/her term of office the Council may appoint a member, if willing to serve, who received the largest number of votes in the last election to Council from those not elected and subsequently appointed to Council. Any member of the Council so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting and then shall be eligible for re-election.
- 9.11. If there are insufficient candidates to fill vacancies or casual vacancies, or as an addition to the existing members of Council, the Council shall have power, at its discretion, to elect any member of the Association to be a member of the Council, provided that the total number of members of the Council shall not at any time exceed any maximum number fixed in accordance with these Rules. Any member of the Council so appointed shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting, and shall then be eligible for re-election.

## **10. Proceedings of the Council**

- 10.1. The Council may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings, as they see fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. A member of the Council, and the Secretary on the requisition of a member of the Council shall, at any time summon a meeting of the Council.
- 10.2. A quorum at meetings of the Council shall be not less than half of the number of currently serving Council members.
- 10.3. Council meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Association. If at any meeting of the Council the Chairman is unable to attend, the members of the Council present may choose one of their numbers to be Chairman of the meeting.
- 10.4. The Council may delegate any of their powers to committees as they think fit. Any committee shall conform to any regulations that may be imposed upon it by the Council and shall report all acts and proceedings to the Council as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 10.5. The Council shall cause Minutes to be made of all resolutions on proceedings at all General Meetings of the Association, and at all meetings of the Council and of committees of Council.
- 10.6. Any business conducted at any meeting of the Council, or by a committee or persons appointed by the Council, shall (notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there were some defect in the appointment) be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified to be a member of the Council.
- 10.7. A resolution in writing, signed by all the members of the

Council for the time being entitled to receive notice of the meeting of the Council, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Council duly convened and held.

- 10.8. The continuing members of the Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their body, but, even so long as their number is reduced below the number fixed as the necessary quorum of members of the Council, the continuing members of the Council may act for the purpose of increasing the number of members of the Council to that number, or for summoning a general meeting of the Association, but for no other purpose.

## **11. Accounts**

- 11.1. The accounting year for the Association shall end on the 31st of December each year.
- 11.2. The Council shall keep accounting records.
- 11.3. The Council shall provide a copy of the accounts to all members for consideration at the AGM.

## **12. Notices**

- 12.1. Any notice to be given to any person in accordance with these Rules, shall be given in writing.
- 12.2. A notice may be given to any member either personally or by sending it by post to their registered address. Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected 24 hours after posting of such letter.

- 12.3. A member present, either in person or by proxy at any meeting of the Association, shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

### **13. Amendments**

- 13.1. Amendments to this constitution and the Memorandum and Articles of Association shall be made by the passing of resolutions at Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association. Except as provided for, such resolution shall be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting in person or in proxy.
- 13.2. Amendments specifically to the objectives of the Association shall only be passed by a 75% majority of all current paid-up members.

### **14. Dissolution**

- 14.1. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objectives of the Association. Such institution or institutions to be determined by the members of the Association at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to some other charitable object.



# Disciplinary Procedures

## 15. Agreement to Be Bound by the Rules

- 15.1. Membership in the Association carries certain responsibilities as well as rights. Any member of the Association may be disciplined, fined or suspended upon a showing of good cause. Any non-member may be denied membership and the privileges attached thereto, whenever it shall be established by satisfactory evidence that such non-member is not a worthy candidate.
- 15.2. Every member of the Association, by the completion of their membership application form, agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Association and all rules, regulations and bylaws made hereunder and agrees that the decisions of the Council, Disciplinary Committee and other competent authorities of the Association given in accordance therewith shall be final and binding upon them.
- 15.3. All members of the Association competing in International competition agree to do so under the jurisdiction of the BEF, or in turn the FEI. The BEF rulebook will apply in all such circumstances, including the rules of doping and medication control and shall take precedence over the Rules of the Association for such purpose.
- 15.4. It is the responsibility of all members of the Association taking part in International competitions to familiarise themselves with the rules of the BEF and FEI

## 16. Conduct of Members

- 16.1. No member of British reining shall:

- 16.2. Conduct themselves at an event in a manner which is offensive to the public.
- 16.3. Conduct themselves in contradiction to rules of behaviour deemed by the NRHA rule book or FEI rules of conduct at shows held under their auspices. Argue at an event with a Judge or Show official or use abusive, threatening language or behave with incivility or contempt towards show officials in any capacity.
- 16.4. Mistreat or abuse in any way a horse at an event or elsewhere. Abuse is defined as actions, or failure to act in a way, which a reasonably prudent person, informed and experienced in the customs, accepted training techniques and exhibition procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive, inhumane or detrimental to the horse. These include but are not limited to misuse or excessive use of the whip or spur; deliberate use of the action of the bit as a means of punishment; misuse of any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the horse.
- 16.5. Allow, knowingly or otherwise, a horse for which he is the person responsible to compete in any competition under the influence of a forbidden substance. The person responsible shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of the sample taken from said horse shows the presence in its bodily fluids the substance, which is either a forbidden substance or one of its metabolites, or a substance, which cannot be traced to normal and ordinary feeding and which, by its nature, is likely to affect the performance of the horse in competition.
- 16.6. Unreasonably refuse to allow a horse which has competed, or is about to compete at an event to undergo any properly authorised test examination if requested to do so by an officer of the Testing Authorities or the Organising Committee.

- 16.7. Knowingly or otherwise compete personally whilst under the influence of a forbidden substance, unless a Therapeutic Use Exemption has been obtained. A member shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from him or her shows the presence in his or her body fluids of any quantity of a substance which is a forbidden substance or one of its metabolites, or of a specified amount of an endogenous substance subject to quantitative analysis.
- 16.8. Refuse to give a sample of his or her body fluids for the purpose of testing for forbidden substances.
- 16.9. Conduct himself/herself in such a manner that he/she has or may have committed or may have been party or privy to any breach of any provisions of the Constitution of the Association or of any rule, regulation or bylaw made hereunder. A member shall be in breach of this Rule in the event that any person who assists, represents or acts on behalf of or in the employment of such member during the course of the show, or class of, that is affiliated to the Association, to the FEI or to any foreign National Federation conducts himself in such a manner that were he a member of the Association he would himself be in breach of any of the provisions of these rules.
- 16.10. Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall be defined as any action of disrespect, deceit or fraud directed to Judges, show management, show representatives, members of the public or other exhibitors.
- 16.11. Conduct themselves in a manner which is detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of the Association, or brings it into disrepute.
- 16.12. Make a malicious and/or frivolous complaint.

- 16.13. Interfere with or attempt to influence the outcome of a complaint investigation or disciplinary hearing.
- 16.14. Unreasonably fail or refused to assist the Council or the Disciplinary Committee in investigations or complaints of misconduct by members of the Association.
- 16.15. Make, either orally or in writing, to an Officer of the Association or at an Affiliated event, any statement on any matter covered by the rules, which he does not or could not reasonably believe to be true.
- 16.16. Compete at an event for which the horse and rider are not fully eligible.
- 16.17. Compete at, and/or transport horses to, an event without full and proper documentation.
- 16.18. Having indicated his availability for selection to the Official British National Team, unreasonably fail or refuse to compete in such Team when selected.
- 16.19. Exercise any of the rights or privileges of membership of the Association when suspended, nor assist, represent or act on the behalf of any other member of the Association at an event staged under the rules of the of the NRHA/FEI or any foreign National Federation while suspended from all rights and privileges of participation.

## **17. Disciplinary Committee**

- 17.1. The British Reining Disciplinary Committee is appointed by the Council to consider complaints of misconduct by members and if necessary to impose appropriate penalties. In this context misconduct is defined as failure in the observance of the provisions of the Association Constitution, or of any lawful

role, regulation, or bylaw made by the Council or any other competent authority. Members remain subject to such provisions where participating in any event affiliated to a foreign National Federation or to the FEI.

- 17.2. Other than for the right of appeal the decisions and actions of the disciplinary committee shall be final and binding upon all parties in every case.

## **18. Complaints of Misconduct**

- 18.1. Whenever anyone believes that the conduct of the member or non-member warrants disciplinary action, he or she must notify the Council in writing, sent by recorded delivery. The payment of £50 must accompany any such complaint. This payment will be refunded if the complaint is upheld.
- 18.2. The filing of a negative show representative's report or a Judge's Grievance Report setting forth conduct warranting disciplinary action will also constitute a complaint in writing. Any Show Representative or NRHA Judge filing such a report, or grievance does not have to pay £50 complaint fee.
- 18.3. If, after preliminary investigations, the Council considers that a prima facie case of misconduct exists (which cannot be dealt with summarily) Council will refer the case to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 18.4. The Council may at its sole discretion also refer any matter which comes to its attention to the Disciplinary Committee.

## **19. Notice of Complaint**

- 19.1. The Disciplinary Committee will arrange a disciplinary hearing to consider the complaint at a time and place decided by them at their sole discretion and by giving due regard to the ability of the member, against whom the complaint has been made, to attend.
- 19.2. Notice of the time and place of the disciplinary hearing will be sent to the accused member, giving at least 30 days notice of such hearing, together with details of the nature of the complaint and the names of the witnesses.

## **20. Rights of Members at Disciplinary Hearings**

- 20.1. The accused member shall have the opportunity to appear at the hearing, with or without an adviser, and to be heard and to present evidence and testimony on his or her behalf and to hear and refute any testimony and evidence offered against him or her.
- 20.2. A member whose conduct is referred to the Disciplinary Committee may appear in person to answer the complaint against them at the disciplinary hearing, present oral or written evidence and examine witnesses. They may also submit written evidence and statements for consideration in their absence. If a member fails to appear at the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee may reach a decision and impose a penalty in their absence.
- 20.3. If a member who has not yet reached the age of 18 is appearing at the disciplinary hearing they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or other responsible adult.

## **21. Proceedings at Disciplinary Hearings**

- 21.1. Proceedings at the hearing will be informal and the admissibility of evidence shall be determined by whether the evidence is such that an ordinary prudent person is willing to rely upon it. The accused and all other persons appearing before the Disciplinary Committee agree that all witnesses and participants in such hearings shall be immune from civil liability, including but not limited to libel, slander, invasion of privacy, defamation, or product of disparagement for testimony given in the course of preparation for or at the hearing.
- 21.2. Should the accused choose to appear at the hearing they do so initially at their own expense. Additionally any costs associated with attendants or advisers and/or witnesses shall be borne by the accused. If the complaint against the member is not upheld the reasonable travelling expenses of the member and a single adviser or witness may be refunded by the Association at the discretion of the Council.

## **22. Powers of Disciplinary Committee to Impose Penalties**

- 22.1. If after hearing all the evidence, the Disciplinary Committee decides that the complaint of misconduct of a member is sustained, they are empowered to impose on such member one or more penalties including, but not limited to, the following:
- 22.2. That such member is disqualified from the results of any competition or competitions directly associated with misconduct and any prizes and/or winnings forfeited.
- 22.3. That any horse belonging to and/or being ridden by such member at the time of the misconduct be debarred from

competing in any competition at shows or classes affiliated to the Association, to a foreign Federation or to the FEI, for a period not exceeding 12 months.

- 22.4. That such member be reprimanded and cautioned as to future conduct.
- 22.5. That such member is suspended from all or any of the rights and privileges of membership for a period not exceeding five years. Any member so suspended will not be allowed to participate as rider or owner, nor to assist, represent or act on behalf of any other member of the Association at any event or class affiliated to the Association, to any foreign National Federation or to the FEI.
- 22.6. That such member pay a fine as the Disciplinary Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, direct giving due regard to the gravity of the misconduct and the cost of the hearing.
- 22.7. Fines may be imposed on an owner, rider or authorised agent with or without disqualification of the horse concerned from any competition. If the horse is not so disqualified, any prize money won in the circumstances will remain on its record. In the event of the horse competing in a class for which it is not eligible it will be disqualified from the competition and all monies won will be forfeit. In addition a penalty at a level agreed by the Disciplinary Committee may be imposed on the owner, rider or authorised agent.
- 22.8. If a competitor or horse qualifies for a further competition as a result of the competition for which he, she or it was not eligible for any reason, the qualification will be cancelled, whether or not a final penalty has been imposed. Provided the cancellation of such qualification has been confirmed by the Council before the normal closing date for the next round of competition or championship, the qualification will pass to the next eligible competitor or horse, if any.



## **23. Forfeitures**

- 23.1. Any rider participating in a BR class or division in which he/she is not eligible will forfeit the earnings or awards to British Reining. It is the responsibility of the ineligible and or disciplined member and/or owner to return all forfeited earnings and awards to British Reining.
- 23.2. Upon receipt of any forfeited earnings and awards British Reining will redirect them to the show committee to be redistributed. BR will make corrections to the class placings and earnings in the BR records.

## **24. Notice of Findings, Penalties and Appeals**

- 24.1. The secretary will, within seven days of the Disciplinary Committee decision, notify the complainant and the accused in writing of the findings of the Disciplinary Committee, of any penalties imposed and the right of appeal as provided for in the rules.
- 24.2. Other than as provided for in the above rules, the findings of and penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding on all parties in every case.
- 24.3. When a member is disciplined, suspended or expelled, or a non-member is denied privileges, the name and address of such member or non-member may be published in the Association newsletter or magazine.

## **25. Appeals**

Any member whose conduct has been referred to the Disciplinary Committee and who is dissatisfied with the Disciplinary Committee

decision may within 28 days of the decision appeal to the BEF Appeal Committee as subject to the BEF Terms of Reference.

## **26. Summary Powers of the Council**

The Council is empowered to impose penalties on members of disqualification and forfeiture, fines not exceeding £100 and suspensions not exceeding three months for each minor offence, subject to the right of any member accused of such an offence to opt for the matter to be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

## **27. Summary Powers of the Team Manager**

The Chef d'Equipe or Team Manager or his duly authorised deputy accompanying members on a course of training or on a tour or team visit, shall have power in his/her absolute discretion to regulate, control and/or adjudicate upon the conduct of members on such course of training, tour or team visit and shall have the power to direct that the member shall be suspended from competing, or taking part in such a course of training or in any competition taking place on such tour or team visit.

## **28. Court of Law Convictions**

A member may be immediately suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of the Association following conviction in a British Court of Law of equestrian related offences, pending a full investigation by the Disciplinary Committee at an enquiry called under the terms of Rule 3. Such suspension is to be approved by three members of the Disciplinary Committee, in writing, and may take effect from the date of conviction.

## **29. Suspension by Other Equine Organisations**

A member may be immediately suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of the Association following suspension for cruel or inhumane treatment of horses by another recognized equine related organisation, pending a full investigation by the Disciplinary Committee. Such initial suspension is to be approved by three members of the Disciplinary Committee and will be the same period of time specified by the suspending organisation.

## **30. FEI Suspensions**

In the event that a rider/owner receives an FEI suspension such a rider/owner will automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of the Association for the same period of time as the FEI suspension.

## **31. Indebtedness to the Association**

Any member who fails to pay a fine imposed by the Council, Disciplinary Committee, or the FEI by the date stipulated or who fails to pay for goods supplied by the Association, including the processing of memberships, registration, etc or by making such payments by means of a cheque or other instrument which is subsequently dishonoured, may be notified by the Council of his indebtedness by first-class letter. If such indebtedness is not fully settled by the dates stipulated then within 30 days of the dispatch of such notification, the member shall automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of the Association and no further transactions will be processed on their behalf until such time as payment is received. The Council shall notify the member accordingly and publish the suspension. Should the member concerned dispute the facts for such

indebtedness and the Council fail to resolve such disputes, the matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling as a complaint of a breach by the member of Rule 16.9.

### **32. Indebtedness to Affiliated Shows**

If a member fails to make payment to an affiliated show in respect of entry fees or by mailing a cheque or other instrument which is subsequently dishonoured, the show secretary may report the name and address of such person, together with the names of the horses and the names and addresses of the owners whose these the dishonoured instruments were intended to cover. The report must be made in writing to the Council and must itemise the amount outstanding fees. On receipt of such notice the Council shall notify the said member of their indebtedness by first-class post. If such indebtedness is not fully settled within 30 days of the date of dispatch of the Council's notification, the member shall automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of the Association until such time as payment is received. The Council shall notify the member accordingly. Should the member concerned dispute the facts of his or her indebtedness and the Council fail to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of those concerned, the matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for handling as complaint of a breach by the member of rule 16.9.

### **33. Publication of Findings and Penalties**

The Council, Disciplinary Committee or Chef d'Equipe may at their absolute discretion publish any disciplinary ruling or direction made concerning any personal matter in such manner as they shall think fit, whether in the public press circulating throughout or in any part of the United Kingdom, or abroad and/or on television or sound broadcasting, and/or to and through any news of broadcasting agency or agent, or otherwise and every member of the Association shall be deemed to have consented thereto.

## Child Protection and Equity

British reining is fully committed to and accepts its legal and moral obligations to comply with its duty of care, to protect all children and vulnerable adults and safeguard their welfare.

British reining has in place a comprehensive child protection and equity policy in line with other BEF Member Bodies. These are subject to constant review and are therefore not contained in this Handbook.

Those currently in force can be viewed on our website [www.britishreining.co.uk](http://www.britishreining.co.uk) and can be downloaded from the site. Members who do not have access to the Internet can obtain a copy of the policy from the Association office or Lead Welfare Officer.

At any British Reining event the organiser will have a copy of the child protection policy and any issues may also be discussed with them at the event.

Members need to be aware that British Reining allows the videoing of its events including classes involving Youth competitors. If any parent or youth has any concerns of the videoing of events then they should contact the Lead Welfare Officer.

Any member with a concern at any time relating to child protection should make contact the Association's Lead Welfare Officer.

# Health and Safety

## General Statement of Intent

British Reining policy is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all employees and volunteers, and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose. The Association also accept its responsibility for the health and safety of others who may be affected by its activities.

Where regulations or the Association's duty of care intimates that risks to health or safety need to be assessed then British Reining will ensure that an assessment is carried out and will implement any necessary actions.

The Association appoints a Health and Safety Officer.

# Doping Control Procedures

## Introduction

The FEI summarises its rationales and anti-doping programmes, seeking to preserve what it calls the spirit of sport characterised by the following values:

- Ethics, fair play and honesty
- Health
- Excellence in performance
- Character and education
- Fun and joy
- Teamwork
- Dedication and commitment
- Respectful rules and laws
- Respect for self and other participants
- Courage
- Community and solidarity

Doping, the FEI concludes, is fundamentally contrary to those values and to the spirit of sport. The BEF and British Reining support this philosophy and British Reining thus adopts all FEI/UK Sport/BEF rules and programmes to prevent the improper use of drugs in our sport both for horses and competitions.

Codes and responsibilities are complex but essentially worldwide anti-doping policy stems from the world anti-doping agency and all governments, National Olympic Committee, national anti-doping organisations, and National and International sport governing bodies are expected to adopt and to implement the WADA code.

The Agency primarily develops a Code and a prohibited substances list for human athletes in all sports. In any sport that includes animals and

competition, the Code calls for the appropriate International Federation to establish rules for animals that include a list of prohibited substances, testing procedures and a list of approved laboratories of the sample analysis.

The WADA Code has been accepted by the FEI and by the UK government. The rules come down to reining from WADA either through the UK national anti-doping Organisation or the FEI to the BEF and finally our own discipline specific Association -- British Reining.

## Competitors

It is easy to assume that the focus on anti-doping programmes in equestrian sport is the horse but there are also very stringent rules for competitors and the penalties for failing a drug test are severe.

Basically competitors are classified into four groups:

- FEI registered testing pool of 100 top ranking riders (Brackets 40 jumping 30 dressage 30 eventing)
- National testing pool -- FEI plus World Class Plan funded riders.
- Domestic pool-- FEI licence holders plus riders at a level specified by discipline body -- for British Reining riders at National Championship level.
- Others

Different testing regimes apply to each pool. In the FEI pool testing may be carried out by the FEI at any time. This includes out of competition testing and advising athletes to provide a 24/7 notification of their whereabouts at all times. The FEI is entitled to turn up unannounced at anytime to test the athletes. If an athlete is not where



they have declared then there is no immediate penalty but if it happens five times in 18 months an automatic two-year ban is imposed.

In the National Pool much the same arrangements apply. The testing here is undertaken by UK sport.

In the Domestic Pool testing is again a matter for the UK sport, but will only take place at competitions.

Outside the three pools the anti-doping rules still apply and testing by UK sport is always a possibility, albeit less likely.

Positive tests result in severe penalties, normally a two-year ban.

The list of prohibited substances is in constant update and would soon be out of date if provided in this Handbook. An up-to-date list is always available from either the WADA website or the BEF website.

Members must be aware that many normal off-the-shelf medications in day-to-day use may contain prohibited substances. Tests proving positive as a result of using such medications will still be treated as a serious offence and the usual stiff penalties will still be applied.

If you are taking any form of medication it is important to check that it does not include a prohibited substance. If it does a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) should be applied for before competing. Applying for a TUE after being found positive in a drug test will not prevent the penalty being applied.

TUE application forms can be downloaded from the BEF or WADA websites, or obtained from the British Reining office. There is an abbreviated version of the form which can be used for certain medications, mainly inhalers.

TUEs are pool specific with the FEI Pool TUEs being sent to the FEI (preferably via UK sport); National and Domestic Pool TUEs being sent to UK Sport; and others being sent to individual discipline bodies

e.g. British Reining (no actual requirement to this). TUEs submitted by an athlete in one pool does not apply in another so individuals need to ensure that they submit TUEs in each pool in which they will compete.

## **Horses**

Horses taking part in competition must be healthy and compete on their inherent merits. The use of a prohibited substance might influence the horse's performance or mask an underlying health problem and could falsely affect the outcome of competition.

Anti-doping procedures for horses basically come down to British Reining from FEI via the BEF. They apply to all BR participants at all BR events.

A list of prohibited substances can be found on the BEF website.

The FEI may test at any FEI approved events.

British Reining policy is to test a number of horses at the main British Reining shows. Additionally random testing of horses in British Reining classes may take place at any time throughout the year.

Positive tests in the FEI events will be handled in accordance with the FEI/BEF rules.

Positive tests in British Reining events will, in the first instance, be reported to the rider/responsible person and to the British Reining Council. In the event of a positive notification, involving a horse ridden by young person under the age of 18, the parent or parents or guardian will also be informed of the procedures being adopted.

If after preliminary investigation the Council considers that a prima facie case of misconduct exists, which cannot be dealt with under rule 26 of the Disciplinary Procedures, they will refer the case to the

Disciplinary Committee to be handled in accordance with the BEF and British Reining Disciplinary Rules.

## **Further Advice**

More information or specific advice can be obtained from the following sources:

### **Human:**

British Reining Athlete Anti-Doping officer

BEF Director of Human Sports Science and Medicine

UK Sport Drug Information Database – [www.uk sport.gov.uk/did](http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/did)

UK Sport Drug Information Line – 0800 528 0004

BEF website – [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk)

FEI website – [www.horsesport.org](http://www.horsesport.org)

WADA website – [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)

### **Equine:**

British Reining Equine Anti-Doping Officer

BEF Director of Equine Sports Science and Medicine

BEF website – [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk)

As the anti-doping procedures are being continually revised, please refer to the British Reining Website for the latest edition.

[www.britishreining.co.uk](http://www.britishreining.co.uk)

# **Class Rules**

## **General**

A rider may not show more than three horses in a British Reining class. Horse may be entered only once per class.

It is mandatory for all riders to use appropriate Western tack and western attire while showing; this will include a long sleeved shirt, Western hat or safety helmet, boots, Western saddle, Western bridle. (Freestyle reining being exempt based on conditions). Failure to use appropriate attire and tack will result in a score of zero.

Except where specified, horses must be ridden one-handed.

Where the classes are grouped together and run concurrently members competing in more than one class will be required to register for each class in advance but will make only one run, the score of which counts for all classes in the group.

Matters not covered by these rules will be dealt with in accordance with NRHA rulebook.

## **Competition Licensing**

All horses competing in British Reining approved competition are required to have a Competition Licence; owners must be members of British Reining.

Competition Licences are permanent when issued to each horse and not renewed each year. There will be a charge to replace the original licence, and for transfers of ownership. Where a horse has an NRHA Licence a British Reining Licence will not be required. A photocopy of

the horse's registration papers (or photographs of the front, back and each side in the case of unregistered horses) must be submitted for each licence application. Application forms are available from [www.britishreining.co.uk](http://www.britishreining.co.uk)

## **Competitor Categories**

For definition of Competitor categories, please refer to the NRHA Rule Book. When NRHA eligibility supersedes BR point earnings, NRHA rules apply.

## **British Reining Categories**

### **OPEN**

Judge required - NRHA

BR Open classes are open to all BR members riding any BR licensed horse.

BR Intermediate Open Classes are open to riders who have earned less than 1000 points in BR Reining competition

BR Limited Open classes are open to riders who have earned less than 500 points in BR reining competition.

### **NON PRO**

Judge required - NRHA

A Non Pro is defined as a person who has not given lessons for remuneration and/or has not directly or indirectly shown, trained, or assisted in the training of a horse ridden astride for remuneration- this does not include prize money. Payment of entry fees and/or expenses

by anyone other than the non pro, his/her immediate family, or a corporation, partnership or other business entity in which the Non Pro and/or a member of his/her immediate family are the sole and only owner, shall be considered remuneration except for demonstrations, exhibitions, or international team competitions where the Non Pro is a member of the nationally-sponsored team. A horse shown in Non Pro competition must be solely and completely owned by one of the following; a) the Non Pro, b) a member or members of their immediate family, or c) a corporation, partnership, or other business provided that the Non Pro and/or a member or members of their immediate family are the sole and only owners of the business entity and the ownership of that business entity does not change to include non immediate family members of entities. Ownership will be evidenced by the competition licence.

BR has adopted the following definition of immediate family; husband, wife, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, brother, sister, half brother, half-sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, and the in-laws of the same relation as stated above.

BR Intermediate Non Pro classes are open to riders who have earned less than 1000 points in BR classes.

BR Limited Non Pro classes are open to riders who have earned less than 500 points in BR reining competition.

### **Novice Horse.**

Judge required - NRHA

Offered in Open and Non Pro Divisions.

Horses must not have earned more than \$500 at the beginning of the year. Earnings records are available on the NRHA website. The class must be ridden one handed in a curb bit.

## **Rookie**

Judge required - NRHA

Open to any Non Pro or youth rider who has earned less than 100 total points in BR classes (Rookie points and others but not to include points earned in Green as Grass classes.)

Rookie points do not carry forward to higher divisions.

Horses must be ridden one handed in a curb bit.

## **Snaffle Bit/Hackamore**

Judge required - NRHA

Horses may be ridden two handed.

Offered as an Open division class for horses aged from 3 to 5 years.

## **Youth**

Judge required - NRHA

Any youth 18 years of age or younger as of 1<sup>st</sup> January may become a Youth member of British Reining. Youth membership entitles a youth to show in Open, Non Pro, Novice Horse Open, Novice Horse Non Pro, Snaffle Bit/Hackamore, Rookie and Youth classes, (providing eligibility conditions are met).

All horses shown in youth competition must be solely and completely owned by one of the following: a) the youth, b) a member of his /her immediate family as defined in Non Pro conditions, or c) a corporation, partnership or other business entity provided the youth and /or a member or members of his/her immediate family are the sole and only owners of that business entity and the ownership of that business entity does not change to include non-immediate family members or entities. Ownership will be evidenced by the competition licence.

No stallions, monorchid or cryptorchid, regardless of age, will be permitted in any youth classes. Entry into a BR approved youth class will be denied if the sex has not be changed on the BR competition by the BR office to Gelding. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of earnings and awards.

### **Prime Time**

Judge required - NRHA

Offered as a Non Pro and Open division class. Competitor to be aged 50 or over on 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year of competition.

### **Freestyle**

Judge required - NRHA

May be ridden two handed, any legal bit.

### **Green as Grass (GAG)**

Judge required - NRHA, AQHA or WES

Must be BR GAG member

Non-Pro declaration required

under a maximum of 50 points or a maximum of two years.

Horses may be ridden one-handed or too handed in snaffle, bosal or curb but if any rider begins one-handed and changes to two handed part way through the pattern, or vice versa, he/she will be disqualified.

Riders may elect to do simple or flying changes but if they elect to do simple changes each one will incur a two-point penalty.

Normal dress rules apply.

Normal NRHA patterns



The NRHA \$200 rule applies to Green-as-grass, Rookie and Youth riders. Riders in these categories may ride a loaned horse for competition, which has less the \$200 lifetime earnings at the beginning of the year.

## Points

Points are awarded to horses, riders and horse/rider combinations in order to establish year end awards, class eligibility and equine performance data for inputting to the National Equine Database.

Points are awarded according to the number of horses and places as per the following table.

		NUMBER OF ENTRIES									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
PLACING	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	3			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	4				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	5					1	2	3	4	5	6
	6						1	2	3	4	5
	7							1	2	3	4
	8								1	2	3
	9									1	2
	10										1

## Application of Points Cut off

When limits of eligibility as defined by points are exceeded during the show year the exhibitor may complete the year in that specific class or division. Ineligibility then applies from the end of the year in which the limit is reached.

## Ties

Ties will be settled by either:

- a) A run off, or
- b) Competitors agreeing to satisfactorily break the tie by the flip of a coin to determine the first place prize money and awards.

Ties that are worked off will use the same pattern and order of running that was used during the event; however, there will not be more than one run-off.

If a tie occurs after the run-off, the entrants will be named co-champions; will evenly split first and second prize money, but must determine the winner of the awards by the flip of a coin.

A horse not returning for a run-off without such an agreement will forfeit first place prize money regardless of the added money.

In the case of a run-off, the contestant(s) not winning the run-off cannot be placed lower than the lowest position for which he/she was tied, ie. 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>.

All other ties are not worked off and will involve as many places as there are horses tied, e.g. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>. The prize money in the previously mentioned example is added together and split equally- four ways.

# **Year End Awards**

British Reining recognises the consistent participation and performance of members with year end awards based on points earned through out the year for the various divisions. These awards take the form of trophies, buckles or plaques and may also be enhanced with cash and other prizes provided by sponsors.

## **National Champions**

The Association has also established a national championship programme in which the top performing riders compete together in an end of season final to establish a British Reining national champion.

Competitors must be members of British Reining but there are no requirements regarding nationality or country of residence.

Individuals may qualify on any number of horses but will only be allowed to compete in the final on a maximum of three of those they have qualified.

The winner of the final will be declared British Reining National Champion.

**BRITISH REINING  
TEAM SELECTION POLICY**

**The current year selection policy will  
available on the website  
from January 1<sup>st</sup>.**