

**ANNEX 1**  
**SPECIFICATIONS FOR LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS**

**1. ENTRY DIVISION**

- 1.1** The Entry level is designed to introduce green horses and riders to Horse Trails combining dressage, cross country and jumping tests. It is designed for competitors and horses that have already had experience schooling competitions in all three disciplines. The entire experience should be safe, inviting and educational to build confidence and a desire to progress.
- 1.2** The Entry division must be conducted under the guidelines of an EC Primary competition Classification. An EC accredited Technical Delegate is obligatory.
- 1.3.** The Entry division may be listed in the Horse Trials Canada Omnibus with other divisions.
- 1.4** The Entry is open to horses of four years of age and up and riders of all ages.
- 1.5** **Description of the Tests.**
- 1.5.1** Dressage Test – Competitors should be prepared to do a walk, trot and canter dressage test with 20 meter figures and a halt.
- 1.5.2** The Cross Country Course- The cross country cross should include a variety of introductory obstacles including a bank up, a shallow natural ditch, a brush and possibly an inviting water crossing. Obstacles must have a minimum of two strides (10 meters) between two numbered obstacles. Such combinations of straight forward efforts are the only obstacles of several elements that are permitted.  
The obstacles shall be designed to be within the limits of the specifications and dimensions and speed defined in Annex 6 & 7. The fences shall be simple, straight forward, clear in definition, solid in appearance, with true ground lines and inviting to jump.
- Approaches to obstacles should be on flat or gently rising terrain.
  - Corner fences or bounce fences are not permitted
  - Only 50% of obstacles should be of maximum height
  - Two sets of related fences of a minimum of 2 strides (10 metres) (of the simple variety) are permitted.
  - Water may be flagged on the exit side only and no jumping effort permitted entry or exit. Recommended depth 10-15 cm, not to exceed 30 cm. An option to the water crossing is mandatory
  - Ditches – A shallow natural ditch is permitted. The take off must be well defined and the obstacle clearly visible as a ditch.
  - Banks – A Bank Up (minimum 2 strides) is permitted
  - Drops – No obstacle of any height may precede the drop.
- 1.5.3** The Jumping Test – The Jumping course should be inviting and straightforward shall be designed within the specifications and dimensions and speed identified in Annex 6 & 7. The course shall include a variety of straight and spread obstacles with true ground lines and may include one double combination of two strides (10 meters).
- 1.6** **Excessive Speed Penalty** – cross country (Phase D) – Each commenced second in excess of 30 seconds under the optimum time will be penalized by 1 penalty point.

**2. PRE-TRAINING DIVISION**

- 2.1** The Pre-Training division is a continuation of the introduction to Horse Trials. It is designed for competitors and horses with some experience at lower levels or for experienced riders with horses new to the sport.
- 2.2** The Pre-Training division must be conducted under the guidelines of an EC Primary

- Competition Classification. An EC accredited Technical Delegate is obligatory.
- 2.3 The Pre-Training division may be listed in the Horse Trials Canada Omnibus with other divisions.
- 2.4 The Pre-Training division is open to horses of four years of age and up and riders of all ages.

## 2.5 Description of the Tests.

- 2.5.1 Dressage Test -The dressage will not differ greatly from the Entry Division and may include the working gaits (walk, trot and canter).
- 2.5.2 The Cross Country Course Directives -The Cross Country Course will invite bold, onward movement involving galloping balance and rhythm and jumping out of stride without encouraging excessive speed. It shall be designed within the limits of the specifications and dimensions and speed defined in Annex 6 & 7 The obstacles shall be more substantial, but remain simple, straight forward, clear in definition with true ground lines and inviting to jump. Obstacles may include a drop, a double and a simple obstacle out of water. At such water obstacles the exit shall not be revetted.
- Corner fences or bounce fences are not permitted.
  - Steep downhill approaches to fences are not recommended.
  - Two sets of related fences of 1 to 3 strides (of the simple variety) are permitted.
  - Simple, banks, steps (minimum 1 stride) are recommended.
  - Water may be flagged on the exit side only and the only jumping effort permitted is one at the exit from the water. Recommended depth 10-15 cm, not to exceed 30 cm. Height of obstacle out of water 0.61 m.
  - Ditches – Normally a ditch should be revetted on the take off side only. However under certain conditions (i.e. sandy soil) it is both necessary and safer to revet both sides of a ditch. Under any conditions take off must be well defined and the obstacle clearly visible as a ditch.
  - Drops – No obstacle of any height may precede the drop.
- 2.5.3 The Jumping Test shall be designed within the specifications and dimensions and speed identified in Annex 6 & 7 and with flow without undue twists and turns and shall include a variety of straight and spread obstacles with true ground lines. One combination with two jumping efforts is permitted.
- 2.6 **Excessive Speed Penalty** – cross country (Phase D) – Each commenced second in excess of 30 seconds under the optimum time will be penalized by 1 penalty point.

## 3. TRAINING DIVISION

- 3.1 The Training Division is an elementary examination of competitors and horses with some experience and training. The dressage test may ask for further development of the basic gaits including introductory lateral work (leg yield), lengthening at the trot and canter as well 10 meter trot and 15 meter canter figures.
- 3.2 Training division may be conducted as EC Primary, or EC National competition. An EC accredited Technical Delegate is obligatory.
- 3.3 The Training Division is open to horses four years of age and up and to competitors 12 years of age and above
- 3.4 **Cross Country Course Directives**  
The Cross Country course shall be designed within the limits of the specifications and dimensions and speed defined in Annex 6 & 7 and should reflect a progressive step of greater technical difficulty from the Pre- Training level, while remaining simple and straight forward and positive in nature. The cross country should include obstacles formed of two

or possible three elements involving the previously introduced banks, drops and ditches. Jumps into and out of water and narrow fences should be introduced. It should remain a learning, confidence building experience.

- A maximum of two, one stride combinations are permitted. These combinations must be open and have an alternative route.
- Bounces are not permitted.
- Corner obstacles are permitted providing that construction is as follows:
  - A single back rail is used which is clearly higher than the front rail or the top and front faces are planked with timber as in a table obstacle.
  - The face of the obstacle is ascending and is solid in appearance.
  - Constructed in such a way that the part that should not be jumped by a competitor cannot be jumped.
  - The obstacle has an alternative route.
- Water – A drop into water is permitted providing that it is revetted and it is strongly recommended that there is a solid half round log secured to the revetment intended to facilitate the jumping of the obstacle. This log may not exceed .50 m in height.  
Depth of water – recommend 15-20 cm. Not to exceed 30 cm.
- Drops – only 1 drop of maximum height is permitted per course.
- Steps – a series of simple steps (maximum of 3) up or down are permitted. Must be a minimum of one stride. The height of the step may not exceed 0.83 m.
- Hollow (Coffin) or half Hollow (coffin) permitted providing that it is a minimum of 2 strides.

**3.5 Excessive Speed Penalty** on Cross Country – Each commended second in excess of 30 seconds under the optimum time will be penalized by 1 penalty point.

#### **4. PRELIMINARY DIVISION**

**4.1** The Preliminary division is a moderate examination of competitors and horses in a regular training program preparing for One Star Events. The dressage test may include medium paces at the trot and canter as well as the introduction of shoulder-in rein back and simple changes of lead through the trot or walk.

**4.2** The Preliminary Horse Trials division is open horses of five years of age and up and to competitors 14 years of age and up as of January 1 of the current year.

**4.3** The Preliminary Horse Trials division may be divided into Senior and Young Rider /Junior Divisions.

**4.4** Preliminary Horse Trials must be conducted at a minimum as an EC National Competition.

#### **4.5 Cross Country Course Directives:**

The Cross Country course shall be designed within the limits of the specifications and dimensions and speed defined in Annex 6 & 7. The cross country should include tests of accuracy, agility, boldness, control judgment and jumping ability. Obstacles may now include angled lines, corners, simple bounces slopes, and combinations involving water or narrow fences.

- Bounce combinations are permitted provided that they follow these guidelines:
  - The combination must be sited on level ground.
  - An alternative route must be provided.
  - Downhill bounce combinations and/or double bounce combinations are not permitted.
  - Bounce combinations into water not permitted.
  - No bounce should encourage or require either or both elements to be jumped at more than a very slight angle.
  - On approaching the obstacle, the total question should be clear to the horse to help it assess the problem. Since bounces by definition have two elements very close together, it

is especially important to be able to distinguish the elements. In many cases (depending of course on siting, materials etc. ) this will mean that the two elements should be of different materials and/or colour and/ or shape.

- The profile of the elements of a bounce should be as "forgiving" as practical. In particular, the top should be rounded and/or the face should be sloping (or both). Massive logs, rounded topped "log piles" etc. are ideal.

- No element of a bounce should involve a significant spread (ie oxer).

• Hollow (Coffin) permitted – 1 stride acceptable.

• Corner obstacles are permitted providing that construction is as follows:

- A single back rail is used which is clearly higher than the front rail.

- The face of the obstacle is ascending and is solid in appearance.

- Constructed in such a way that the part that should not be jumped by a competitor cannot be jumped

- The obstacle has an alternative route.

• Trakehners permitted provided that a true ground line is placed on the ditch before the fence.

• Water – Depth at entry or exit and track between recommended 10-15 cm but not to exceed 0.30. Banks into and out of water must be revetted

**4.6 Excessive speed penalty** cross country – Each commenced second in excess of 30 seconds under the optimum time will be penalized by 1 penalty point.

## **5. INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

**5.1** The Intermediate division is an examination of increasing technical difficulty, preparing the competitors and horses for Two Star Events. The dressage test may now include canter to halt transitions as well as collected trot and canter, half - pirouettes, and counter -canter.

**5.2** The Intermediate division is open to horses six years of age and up and riders sixteen years of age and above as of January 1st of the current year.

**5.3** The Intermediate division may be divided into Senior and Young Rider divisions.

**5.4** Intermediate Horse Trials must be held at a minimum as EC National Competitions.

### **5.5 Cross Country Directives**

The Cross Country course shall be designed within the limits of the specifications and dimensions and speed defined in Annex 6 & 7. The cross country course should now combine in more elaborate settings the tests introduced at the preliminary level such a combinations with more than one question to be solved. Obstacles to be expected include banks, ditches or water with narrow elements, a bounce combined with other elements or corners in a combination.

• Bounce combinations are permitted subject to the guidelines as outlined for the Preliminary division with the following exception:

- Downhill bounce combination may be permitted in the Intermediate division.

- Bounce into water may be permitted subject to the guidelines for bounces as outlined for the Preliminary Division.

## **6. ADVANCED DIVISION**

**6.1** The Advanced division is the highest national level of Horse Trials. It offers tests of significant difficulty designed to prepare competitors and horses for either Three or Four Star Events. The dressage test may include extensions in all three paces, half pass at the trot and canter and single flying changes.

**6.2.** The Advanced division is open to horses six years of age and above and riders sixteen years of age and above as of January 1st of the current year.

**6.3** Advanced Horse Trials must be held at a minimum as EC National Competition.

**6.4 Cross Country Course Directives:**

The Cross Country course shall be designed within the limits of the specifications and dimensions and speed defined in Annex 6 & 7. The cross country should clearly be a test of boldness and scope as it now combines size with technical difficulty. Combinations with multiple questions are to be expected such a bounces into water coffins with short distance or significant slopes, and bending lines or related distances between narrow questions.

- Cross country course directives – per FEI