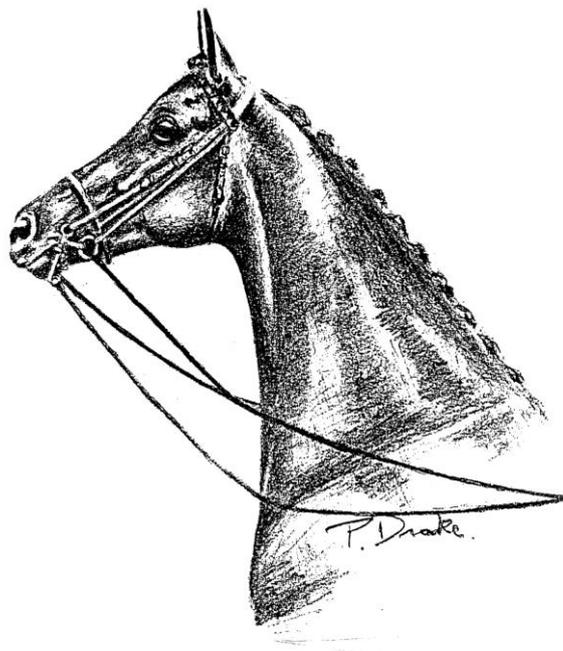


BRITISH SHOW PONY SOCIETY
RULE BOOK
COMBINED & GOLD CUP CLASSES



(RE-ISSUED 2025)

GENERAL RULES

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** -Open to ponies and riders who are eligible to compete in B.S.P.S. classes.

2. **DRESS**

As permitted in the current BSPS Rule & Show Handbook and compliant with Sections B, C and D.

Hats must be in accordance with B.S.P.S. Rules.

A competitor whose hat comes off, or chin strap comes undone whilst competing must on penalty of elimination replace it or do it up before continuing.

Whips are permitted for all phases, but they must not exceed 75cms (30ins). Baton whips only to be used in the jumping phases. Dressage whips are permitted in the dressage warm-up, but whips used during the dressage test must be BSPS legal.

3. **CLASSES**

Four Sections according to Height of Fences:-

Nursery Stakes – Mare or gelding 4 years old or over not exceeding 133cm. Riders not to have attained their 13th birthday before 1st January in the current year. Height of fences 75cm for the WHP and 80cm for the showjumping. **This class is not a qualifier for the final.**

Not exceeding 138cms Mare or gelding, 4 years old or over. Riders not to have attained their 15th birthday before 1st January in the current year. Height of fences in the qualifying rounds 85cm for WHP and 90cm for show jumping. Height of fences at the final 90cm for WHP and 95cm for show jumping.

Not exceeding 148cm Mare or gelding 4 years old or over. Riders not to have attained their 18th birthday before 1st January in the current year. Height of fences in the qualifying rounds 95cm for WHP and 100cm for show jumping. Height of fences at the final 100cm for WHP and 105 cm for show jumping

Not exceeding 158cms Mare or gelding 4 years old or over. Riders not to have attained their 25th birthday before 1st January in the current year. Height of fences in the qualifying rounds 105cm for WHP and 110cm for show jumping. Height at the final 110cm for WHP and 115cm for show jumping.

Gold Cup Classes consist of:

Section. A - Dressage,

Section. B - WSP (replaces WHP as marks are based on Style & Performance)

Section. C - Show Jumping (timed with penalties for exceeding the time allowed and optional Joker fence which is placed within the timed course).

The same pony and rider combination can only qualify in one section, and must qualify in the first class they qualify in.

Riders must be the correct age for the height of the pony they ride.

General Rules

1. It is permitted to change Saddlery between Sections A and B (and Section C if applicable).
2. The Dressage Test to be ridden before the W.S.P. Phase, except at the BSPS Championship Shows when this may not be possible.
3. Rules for jumping the WSP and Show Jumping sections will be as for W.H.P. classes.
4. Shoeing and Leg protection for the WSP and Show Jumping Sections, will be as permitted within the BSPS WHP classes.

5. Height of fences for the WSP and Show Jumping phases will be in accordance with the Class description (see Section 3). At the finals of the Gold Cup, the Course Builders are permitted an extra 5cms increase in the maximum heights of fences
- 6 A fall of pony or rider in any Section will result in elimination in that phase.

JUDGES

7. Section A from the BSPS or any recognised Dressage Panel
Section B from the B.S.P.S. W.H.P. Panel.
Section C from the British Show Jumping Panel.

SECTION A - DRESSAGE

1. Dressage (copies of Dressage tests are available from the BSPS Office. In addition, they show the Scale of Marks and the penalties given for any Errors of course). The Test will be conducted and judged in accordance with the B.S.P.S. Combined & Gold Cup Classes Rule Book.
2. To be ridden in a 'British Dressage legal' Snaffle with both hands. All transitions from one pace to another may be progressive, except where otherwise stated.
3. All trot work may be executed sitting or rising.
4. The Test to be ridden from memory. No outside assistance will be allowed.
5. **Entering the Arena**
Competitors must not enter the arena until the judge has sounded the horn, rung the bell or signalled in some other way that he/she may start. Entering before the judge's signal may lead to elimination. Should the construction of the arena make it impossible for the competitor to ride round the outside before the Judge's signal to enter is sounded, he may, on the instruction of the organiser and/or judge, ride inside the arena.
6. **Execution of Test.** All Movements must follow in the order laid down in the Test. In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the Arena, it is at the moment when the rider's body is above this point that the movement must be executed.
7. **Salute.** All riders must take the reins and whip, if carried, in one hand when saluting and drop the other hand down by the side and bow with their head only.
8. **Resistance**
 - (a) Any pony failing to enter the Arena within 60 seconds of the bell being sounded shall be eliminated.
 - (b) Any pony refusing to continue the Test for a period of 20 consecutive seconds during the course of a test shall be eliminated.
9. **Voice.**
The use of the voice is prohibited and will be penalised by the loss of two marks from those that would have been awarded for the movement in which this occurred.
10. **Leaving the Arena.**
A pony is eliminated if during a Test, it leaves the Arena when the surround is 9in. high or more. Where the surround is less than 9in. and is marked by boards or similar, no marks shall be given for the movement when the pony places all four feet outside the Arena. Where the Arena is marked by a line only or intermittent boards it is left to the discretion of the Judges as to the marks deducted.

Any pony leaving the Arena not under control will be eliminated and for this purpose the Test begins when the pony enters at 'A' and finishes with the final halt.
11. **Errors of Course**
 - (a) A rider is judged to have made an 'error of course' (takes a wrong turn, omits a movement etc.) the judge warns the competitor by sounding the bell. The Judge indicates, if necessary, the point at which the competitor must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed.

However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an ‘error of course’, the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance, it is up to the judge to decide whether or not to sound the bell. In fairness to the competitor, it is recommended that the bell should be rung when a movement is executed at the wrong marker if there is the possibility of a similar mistake when the movement is to be repeated on the other rein.

If the judge for any reason does not realise that one or more movements have been omitted until the competitor has left the arena he must:-

- i) Adjust as necessary the position of his marks and comments on his sheet to accord with the movements actually performed.
- ii) Give to each of the movements not executed a mark equal to the average of the collective marks entered at the bottom of his sheet.
- iii) Record the penalty for error of course.

When the rider makes an “error of the Test” (e.g. does not take the reins in one hand at the salute, etc.) they must be penalised as for an “error of course”. The judge should put a star against the movement concerned and mark for an error at the bottom of the sheet.

12. **Penalties for Errors of Course**

Every error, whether rectified or not, every omission and every movement taken in the wrong order must be penalised as under:

The first error by	2 marks
The second error	4 marks
The third error by	8 marks
The fourth error by	Elimination

N.B. The penalty marks are cumulative.

13. **Time**

The approximate time given on each test sheet is for guidance only.

14. **Scoring - Method**

Each Judge may allot from 0 - 10 points for each numbered movement. These marks are then added together, and any penalty marks are deducted.

The total marks awarded in the Dressage are converted to a percentage for the scoring.

In the event of a tie, the Collectives will be the decider.

15. **Scale of Marks.** - Scale of Marks as follows:

10	Excellent
9	Very Good
8	Good
7	Fairly Good
6	Satisfactory
5	Sufficient
4	Insufficient
3	Fairly Bad
2	Bad
1	Very Bad
0	Not Executed

The marks 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performances warrant their use.

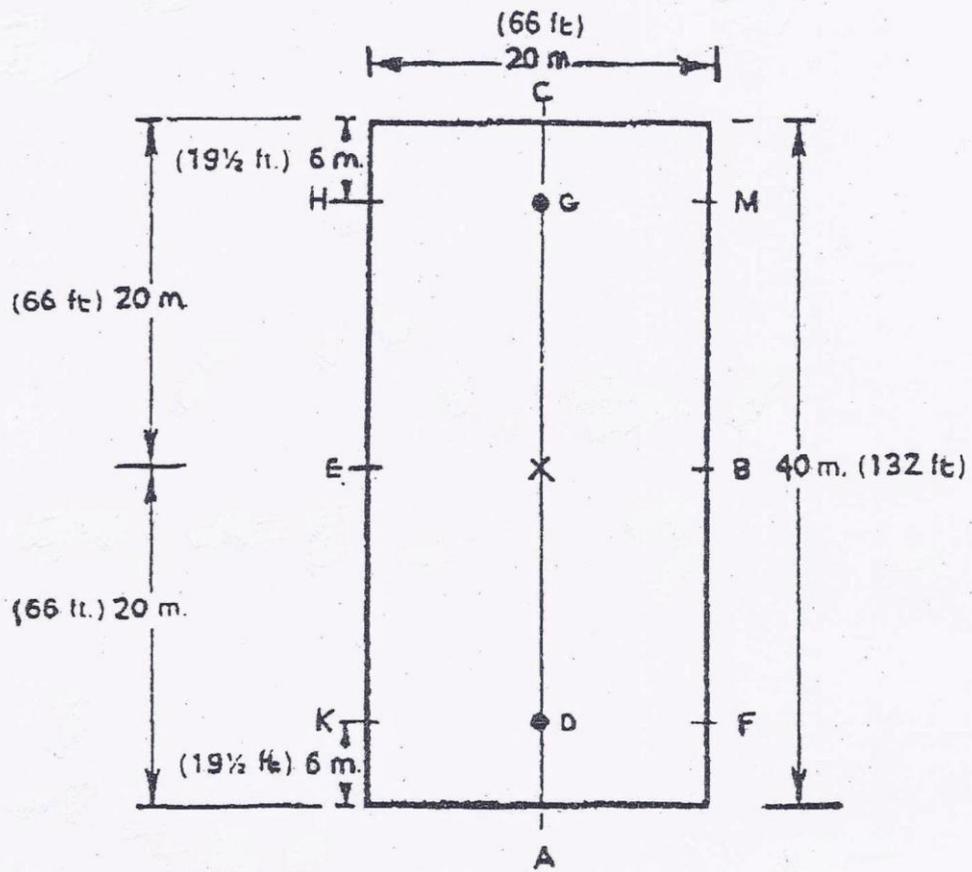
By 'Not Executed' is meant that nothing which is required has been performed.

16. Judges Sheets shall be given to competitors at the end of the Competition.

17. **Dress**
Must be in accordance with B.S.P.S. Rules (see Section 2).
18. **Gloves**
Must be worn.
19. **Spurs & Buttonholes**
Neither Spurs, dummy spurs or Buttonholes are permitted.
20. **Whips**
Are permitted. Baton whips only in the jumping phases.
21. **Saddles**
Black or brown saddles of plain English type with white, brown, dark blue or black girths.
Competitors wishing to ride side saddle must notify the organiser of the competition at the time of entry.
22. **Numnahs, Saddle Cloths and Pads**
Only White, Cream, navy blue, brown or black are permitted, with NO logo or advertising.
23. **Bits**
Only British Dressage legal snaffle bits are permitted.
BUT any normal riding bit is permitted when riding the BSPS Walk and Trot Dressage Test.

Mouthpieces may only be used in their manufactured form without any additional covering to or on any part. Different combinations of metal are allowed in one bit.
24. **Nosebands**
One only of cavesson, drop, flash, grackle or Mexican permitted. Nosebands must not incorporate chain or rope.
25. **Other Tack**
Micklem Multibridles are permitted.
Breastplates and cruppers are allowed. Neckstraps may be worn.
Nose Nets are permitted in the dressage phase, they must be discreetly coloured and cover the nose only.
Martingales and bearing, side, check or running reins are not permitted.
Front, Hind and Overreach boots are not permitted in any dressage class.
26. **Fly Fringes, Gauzes and Ear Covers**
Fly fringes, and ear covers which cover any part of the horse's head may be worn when riding in but not during a Test.
Anti Fly Impregnated Browbands and Fly repellent Discs are permitted while riding in and during a Test.
27. **Penalties for Contravening Rules**
Anyone entering the Arena with incorrect Saddlery, dress, or equipment, riding the wrong Test for the appointed Class or in any other way not complying with the rules will be eliminated from the Class. However, if both Judge and Organiser agree, the competitor may be allowed to enter the Arena again later properly equipped and perform the Test Hors Concours.
28. **Diagram of Bits.**
See the diagrams in the British Dressage Handbook available from their website.
Snaffle bridles only, (Note: Wilkie snaffles are not permitted).

Diagram of Arena.



SECTION B - W.S.P. (Working Sports Pony)

30. This Section to be ridden after Section A wherever possible.
31. To be run in accordance with B.S.P.S. Rules.
32. To consist of one round of a W.H.P. Course appropriate to the pony's Height Section and the type of class i.e. Novice or Open There will be no marks for Conformation.

33 Height of Fences

See Schedule and BSPS Rule & Show Handbook.

For Gold Cup Final, the Course Builders will be permitted an extra 5cms increase to the maximum heights of fences.

34 Marks

Jumping	60 marks
Style & Manners	20 marks
Gallop	10 marks
Position of Seat & Effectiveness of Rider	10 marks
Total	100 marks

35 Penalties (To be deducted from the Jumping marks)

Knock Down	10 penalties
First Refusal	15 penalties
Second Refusal	20 penalties
Third Refusal	Elimination
Fall of Pony or Rider	Elimination

In the event of a tie, the Style & Manners mark will be the decider.

SECTION C – SHOW JUMPING

- 36 This section will be open to the competitors gaining the highest amalgamated scores in the Dressage and WSP phases. The number of ponies required for show jumping is at the discretion of the Show organisers. In the event of a tie, in the amalgamated scores, the Dressage mark, followed by the WSP style, will be the decider.
 - a) The competitors will jump in reverse order of merit.
 - b) The wearing of Show jumping jackets is permitted.
- 37 This jumping section will be judged on one round, over coloured fences. Not against the clock. The course will be timed. A Joker fence (10 bonus points if jumped clear), (20 penalties if knocked down) is included at the discretion of the Show Organisers. There will be a time allowed for the course and penalties will be incurred for exceeding this time.

Penalties

Knock Down	10 penalties
Knock down of alternative (Joker)fence	20 penalties
First Refusal	15 penalties
Second Refusal	20 penalties
Third Refusal	Elimination
Fall of Pony / Rider	Elimination
Taking the wrong course	Elimination
Every commenced period of 1 seconds in excess of time allowed	= 1 penalty.

Any penalties incurred in this Section will be deducted from the total of Sections A and B.

38 At the Championship Shows, the time allowed will be based on the table below, but will be at the Judges' discretion.

Time allowed will be based on the speed of:-

133cms & 138cms -325 metres per minute.

148cms & 158cms - 350 metres per minute.

39. In the event of elimination in this Section C 200 penalty points will be deducted from the competitors score carried forward from Sections A and B.

40. A water jump is not permitted.

41. If a combination or double fence is numbered as one fence, penalties incurred at each part are cumulative.

42 Any pony taking the wrong course or jumping another fence after completing the course will be eliminated.

43 If a pony positively stops, or turns its quarters to a fence, or has a complete turnaround these constitute refusals. If a pony jumps the incorrect fence out of a pen or lane it will be eliminated. Ponies displaying continued disobedience, or ponies leaving the ring whether mounted or dismounted will be eliminated.

44 No penalty is incurred unless the maximum height of the fence is lowered in the same vertical plane.

45 Competitors are allowed to walk the course dismounted before their class. Ponies are not allowed to practice over any part of the course before the commencement of the class.

46 No person, other than the Judge or the Course Builder appointed by the Show, is permitted to alter the course.

47 All dress will be as for Section B.

SCORING FOR COMBINED CLASSES

SECTIONS A & B

Competitors must complete both Sections A and B.

Marks attained in Section A Dressage and Section B WSP shall be added together to determine the winner with the highest score.

In the event of a tie, the highest Dressage score followed by the WSP Style & Manners shall be the winner.

SECTIONS A, B, AND C

Competitors must complete Sections A, B and C.

Marks attained in Section A - Dressage and Section B - WSP, shall be added together. Any penalties incurred in Section C - Jumping will be deducted from the total from Sections A and B. The winner of the combined class of Sections A, B and C will be the competitor with the highest total of marks from all three phases.

In the event of a tie, or ties, the fastest Show Jumping time will be the decider.

At the discretion of the Show Organisers, when and if eliminated ponies in the Dressage and/ or WSP phases are to be included in the Show Jumping, the penalties are:

Elimination in the Dressage phase 200 penalties

Elimination in the WSP phase 250 penalties

The scores will be displayed as they become available.

Championship – The Championship will be judged on placings or otherwise stated by the organisers.

Helpful Directives for Organisers

Dressage:

Arena (See Diagram earlier) is 40m (132') by 20m (66') and should be on flat and level ground, separated from the public on the next door Arena by preferably at least 10m.

The Arena may be marked by either continuous surround of white boards, or by intermittent white boards, placed at each corner and opposite each marker, with a centre line mown from A to C. A gap of about 1m each side of the centre line must be left at A to form an entrance and the A marker placed far enough back, 10m if possible, to allow ponies to enter the Arena on a straight track.

Markers

The outer markers must be clearly visible with the letters displayed in black or white. They should be placed about 2m (6') outside the arena.

Equipment

Judges normally judge from their own cars, placed in line with the centre line, approximately 5m (15') from C. Equipment required:

- 1) Car hooter, whistle or bell (different for each Arena).
- 2) Board and Pencil for Judges writer.
- 3) Judges marking sheets (one per competitor, available from Head Office).
- 4) These Rules.
- 5) List of competitors and their times of starting the Test.

Arena Steward:

One steward for each Arena is preferable, their duties are to see competitors perform their test on time and to check that all Saddlery and equipment conform to the rules.

This Rule Book must be available with the list of Competitors times.

Dressage Judges

It is recommended that Dressage Judges be used who are on any of the recognised Dressage Judges Lists.

Each Dressage Judge requires a Writer. Judges may provide their own, but if not the organiser must appoint one.

Results

Scoring Computer

- a) All the marks will be entered into the computer, which will be responsible for producing and printing the results.
- b) The computer will produce the order of jumping list for those competitors required for the Show Jumping phase (reverse order of merit).
- c) The computer will produce the Show Jumping Score Sheet.

Scoring and Scorers

- 1) At least two scorers are required, plus one person to help generally and also write scores on the Boards.

- 2) All score sheets for Section A, B & C are available from Head Office.
- 3) A suitable, quiet area should be available for the scorers, with an electricity supply i.e. a Caravan, Tent or similar.
- 4) Score Boards should be available for competitors to see at all times.
- 5) Dressage Score sheets are available for all competitors approximately 1 hour after the completion of the class.

Arena Steward:

One steward for each Arena is preferable, their duties are to see competitors perform their test on time and with the correct equipment and dress, therefore a Rule Book must be available with the list of Competitors times.

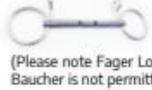
Timing

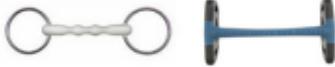
For a Dressage test of 4.5 minutes approximately the organisers should allow 7 minutes between the start of each Test.

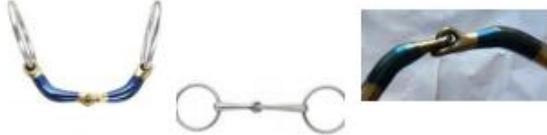
Please see following pages for British Dressage allowed bits, updated December 2025.

Bitting Rings and cheeks

Any combination of permitted cheeks and permitted mouthpieces can be used under BD rules.

Item	Illustration	Status
Eggbutt (also permitted for bridoons)		✓
Loose ring (also permitted for bridoons)		✓
Sleeved cheeks Not for use as a bridoon.	 	✓
Shaped sleeved cheeks	 	✗
Full cheek or Fulmer Not for use as a bridoon.	  	✓
Hanging cheek or Baucher Not for use as a bridoon.	   (Please note Fager Loose Ring Baucher is not permitted)	✓
D-ring Not for use as a bridoon.		✓
Various gag cheeks	 	✗
Myler (or similar) cheeks for use with hooks		✗
Bevel bit or cheeks		✗

Item	Illustration	Status
Cable single jointed		
B-ring snaffle		
Dr Bristol		
Mouthpiece with single rotating central piece		
Jointed barrel mouthpiece		
Low ported barrel		
Double jointed plastic bit		
Straight bar with textured mouthpiece (various material including Happy mouth)		
Hippus C1100		
Kimblewick or Magennis		
Flex control bit		 Not permitted as a bridoon

Item	Illustration	Status
Ported un-jointed bit		 Not for use as a bridoon.
Mullen Mouth (including flexible mouthpieces)		 Not for use as a bridoon.
Bits with a central plate		
Double jointed snaffle (including French Link and double ball joint)		
Cable double jointed bit		
Ported Barrel		 Not for use as a bridoon.
Single jointed snaffle including lock-up (NB lock up snaffle may not be used as a bridoon)		
Vibrating bit		

Item	Illustration	Status
Rotating baucher		✗
Winning Tongue Plate NP Bit (any type)		✗
Various mouthpieces (including leather mouthpieces)		✗

Bitting Weymouth

Item	Illustration	Status
Plastic covered Weymouth		✓
Weymouth with downward deviation		✗
Weymouth with sliding arms		✓
Weymouth with jointed or rotating arms or mouthpiece		✗

This Rule Book is the copyright of
THE BRITISH SHOW PONY SOCIETY
No Part may be reproduced without their permission

124 Green End Road, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 5XS