Forword

Welcome to the SAQ Show Jumping Competition Rules. These rules are to be read in conjunction with the SAQ Constitution and EFA Rules and Regulations. Members are encouraged to refer to these rules and to the SAQ web site www.saq.com.au and the EFA web site www.equestrian.org.au for other notices that may be published from time to time.

Preamble

The following rules have been adopted by the Standardbred Association of Queensland Incorporated (SAQ) and must be followed for all show jumping events held by the SAQ. These rules follow as closely as possible to the rules laid down by the Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA). If issues arise that are not in these rules then the EFA rules apply. Some EFA rules have been modified to suit the nature of the Standardbred. These rules do not apply in EFA-sanctioned competitions.

These rules cannot provide for every eventuality. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the appropriate Official(s) to make a decision in a sporting spirit and adhere as closely as possible to the intention of these rules.

Notwithstanding anything stipulated in these rules the SAQ Committee shall have full and complete authority to omit, amend and interpret these rules in their absolute discretion and to give or withhold any explanation of their decision.

Section 1 – Conditions of Entry

1.1 Acceptance of the Rules

- All Members of the SAQ shall accept and be bound by these rules
- Making an entry for any event constitutes implicit acceptance of these Rules
- Competitors are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with these rules
- Breach of the rules may entail elimination unless other penalties are stipulated

1.2 Code of Conduct for the welfare of the Horse

1.2.1 The SAQ expects all those involved in equestrian sport to adhere to the SAQ’s Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse is paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

1.2.2 At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery, tack and transport.
1.2.3  Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.

1.3  Abuse of the Horse

1.3.1  No person may abuse a horse during an event or at any other time. “Abuse” means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse, including without limitation any of the following:

   a)  To whip or beat a horse excessively
   b)  To subject a horse to any kind of electric shock device
   c)  To use spurs excessively or persistently
   d)  To jab the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device
   e)  To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured horse
   f)  To “rap” a horse
   g)  To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a horse
   h)  To leave a horse without adequate food, drink or exercise
   i)  To use any device or equipment that causes pain to the horse upon knocking down an obstacle.

1.3.2  Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a protest without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during an event, it should be reported as a protest to the Ground Jury. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported as a protest to the SAQ Committee. Persons witnessing an Abuse should where possible endeavour to stop the Abuse.

1.3.3  The sighting of any blood on the horse during a test, whether wet or dry, will entail elimination. There is no appeal against this decision.

1.3.4  Competitors are alerted to the fact that, as well as SAQ Rules, cruel application of spurs, whips or bits is illegal in some Australian States and Territories.

1.4  Protests, Report and Appeals

1.4.1  Any protest, report or appeals must be made to the Ground Jury, Chief Steward or Technical Director no later than 20 minutes after results are posted.

1.4.2  A fee of $100 must be paid at time of any protest or appeal being made and may be forfeited if protest found to be malicious or without fact. If the protest or appeal is reversed the fee will be returned.

1.4.3  No fee is required when reporting any form of animal abuse.

1.5  Anti-doping and Medication Control

1.5.1  Refer to the EFA and FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control rules (EADMC) and the EFA (Athlete) Anti-Doping Policy. For more information visit www.equestrian.org.au, www.fei.org or www.asada.gov.au
1.5.2 Horse and Riders may be subject to random in-competition testing.

1.6 Conflict of Interest

1.6.1 Any conflict of interest must be declared by officials and competitors. Any official or competitor found not declaring a conflict of interest may be eliminated from the competition and/or the SAQ.

1.7 Authority

1.7.1 The SAQ is empowered to refuse any entry, with or without stating reason/s. The SAQ shall be the sole judges of the qualifications of any horse or rider to compete in any particular level and may transfer any entry of any such horse or rider to any lower or higher-ranking level.

1.8 Entry of Horses

1.8.1 Only Registered and branded Standardbred horse(s) may enter any SAQ event, unless otherwise specified by the SAQ.

1.8.2 A competitor may not add a horse which is not on the list of entries without the approval of the OC.

1.8.3 The draw is to be strictly adhered to and changes can only be made by the OC.

1.8.4 Riders with two horses in the draw must compete in the order that the horse/rider combination is drawn.

1.8.5 One rider per horse is permitted at any event.

1.9 Scratching/Withdrawals

1.9.1 A competitor may withdraw any or all of the horses that he/she has entered, subject to the conditions of entry.

1.9.2 A refund may only be made if documented proof (i.e. veterinary or medical certificate) is produced within 48 hours of the completion of the event to the SAQ secretary.

1.9.3 A minimum of at least 50% of the entry fee should be refunded.

1.10 Gear Check

1.10.1 A gear check is required for each test. All competitors must present to the gear steward. Gear check must be conducted either prior to or immediately after the test. Failure to have a gear check may incur elimination.

1.12 Grading Points

1.12.1 Horses are graded on a points system. Points are given to a horse when placed in competitions from beginner’s level and above. Points gained at EFA competitions will also be counted.

1.12.2 In competitions horses gain grading points when:

- They are in the first six placing, irrespective of the number of award
1.12.3 Table of Grading Points Awarded

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<tr>
<th>Placing</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<th>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<td>Grading points</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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In the case of a tie the full grading points for that place are awarded to each horse.

1.13 Eligibility of Horses for Each Level

- Beginners level - less than 20 points
- Intermediate - less than 40 points
- Advanced - less than 100 points

1.14 Hors Concours (HC) – non-competitive

1.14.1 Horses may compete, HC at any level below their grade and at only one level above their grade.

1.14.2 HC entries must be declared in writing prior to the start of the competition. Horses entered HC are not eligible for any prize or prize money. Grading points will not be awarded.

1.14.3 For SAQ competitions all HC entries must comply in every way with the rules governing an SAQ competition.

Section 2 – Dress, Saddlery and Equipment

2.1. Compulsory Dress (unless stated otherwise)

- White, off-white, light canary or beige jodhpurs, breaches or trousers
- Short coat or waistcoat
- Riding boots, either long or short, black or brown
- Approved safety helmet
- Gloves, tie, stock or ratcatcher
  Optional
- Spurs, whip, gaiters, monkey grip

2.2 Headgear

2.2.1 Competing riders must wear headgear applicable to their level of competition. Grooms, when mounted on a horse, must wear an approved safety helmet with the retaining harness secured and fastened.

2.2.2 Approved safety helmets are to worn at all times with the retaining harness secured and fastened when training/practicing at an event. The current accepted safety helmet standard in Australia is AS/NZS 3838. Other standards are applicable as written in the EFA Rules.

2.2.4 Competition attire including formal headgear is permitted in the final warm-up area at the discretion of the OC.
2.2.5 Riders under 18 MUST wear an approved safety helmet with the retaining harness secured and fastened in all SAQ competitions, regardless of the level or venue.

2.3 Footwear

2.3.1 Whilst mounted, all riders must wear riding boots with smooth or almost smooth soles and heels. This is for safety and risk management reasons.

2.3.2 Short or long boots may be worn in all levels of competitions held by the SAQ. Matching coloured gaiters may be worn with short boots with heels.

2.4 Spurs

- Spurs may be worn by competitors at all levels
- Spurs are compulsory when a double bridle is worn
- Spurs must be made of metal
- A curved or straight shank must point directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider’s boot
- The tip of the shank must not point up or point inwards
- The arms of the spur must be smooth
- If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Daisy rowels are permitted
- There is no maximum length of spurs
- Metal spurs with hard plastic knobs are permitted
- Dummy spurs with no shank are allowed

2.4.1 Competitors are to comply with the SAQ Animal Welfare Policy in relation to use of spurs. Failure to comply may result in elimination.

2.5 Whip

2.5.1 A whip, not exceeding 1.2 metres in its entirety (including the tassel), may be carried and used by a competitor in a Show Jumping Competition at all SAQ events including State Championships.

2.5.2 Competitors are to comply with the SAQ Animal Welfare Policy in relation to use of whips. Failure to comply may result in elimination.

2.6 Coats

2.6.2 The wearing of coats is optional in hot weather conditions, at the discretion of the OC. If a rider chooses to discard their coat, then a shirt must be worn with a rat catcher or normal collar and long or short sleeves. The SAQ shirt may be worn at the discretion of the OC.

2.7 Saddle and Saddlecloths

2.7.1 A fully mounted jumping type or all-purpose saddle is preferred. However, at the discretion of the OC a stock or western saddle may be used. The saddle may be treed or treeless and may be used with or without a saddlecloth.

2.7.2 Saddlecloths may be square or shaped. The SAQ saddlecloth is preferred but not compulsory.

2.8 Bridles, Nosebands and Bits
2.8.1 Padding is allowed on bridles/nosebands as long as the padding is securely attached.

2.8.2 A snaffle bridle is compulsory in all show jumping competitions... A snaffle bridle is an English type bridle with a single snaffle type bit and one set of reins.

2.8.3 It is compulsory to have only one of the following nosebands on a snaffle bridle:

- Dropped noseband
- Cavesson noseband
- Flash/Hanoverian noseband
- Crossed/grackle/Mexican noseband

2.8.4 Nosebands may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse. Officials should not loosen the noseband, but request the rider/groom to do so. If the rider refuses and an Official thinks the noseband is too tight, the Ground Jury should be approached to make ruling.

2.8.5 Only snaffle bits having the following features are approved for use in Dressage. Snaffle bits shall be composed of:

- Metal
- Metal and rubber or synthetic material
- Rigid plastic

2.8.6 Bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain are NOT permitted. Wrapping of bits in NOT permitted.

2.8.7 For bits made only of metal, the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm and 14mm for young horses. Mouthpieces may be the same thickness or tapered towards the centre or central joint/s. There shall not be more than two joints in the mouthpiece. Double jointed mouthpieces may have one rotating middle piece. All parts coming into the horse’s mouth shall be rounded, smooth and not ridged, sharp or corrugated.

2.8.8 Double Bridle not applicable at this point.

2.9 Other Equipment allowed at SAQ Show Jumping Events:

- Breast plates
- Fore girths in all levels
- Neck strap
- Monkey grip all levels.

2.10 Equipment NOT allowed at SAQ Show Jumping Events:

- Blinkers
- Hoods
- Ear plugs
- Nasal strips
- Bit guards
- Bearing, running or balancing reins either lunging or riding will incur elimination from the event
• Any other equipment which the Ground Jury, TD or Chief Steward may determine is against the intent and general principles of Dressage
• Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items such as ribbons or flowers in the tail etc. is strictly forbidden. Normal plaiting of mane and tail is allowed

2.11 The following equipment is allowed in Warm-up and Exercise Area but NOT Competition Area:

• Running Martingales (with a snaffle bridle)
• Boots and bandages
• Saddle covers

2.12 The designated lunging area must be used and with only one lunge rein may be used and two single direct side reins may be used. Failure to comply will entail elimination.

Diagram of permitted nosebands

Dropped noseband
NOT permitted when double bridle used

Cavesson noseband
Permitted with double bridle
Flash noseband (Hanoverian)

NOT permitted when double bridle used

Crossed noseband (grackle/Mexican)

NOT Permitted when double bridle used

Double bridle with cavesson noseband,

Bridoon bit and curd with curb chain
A competition not against the clock with a time allowed but in the event of equality of penalties for first place there will be one jump-off against the clock.

Other competitors are placed according to their penalties in the first round.

1. In this competition, a certain number of obstacles, without a combination obstacle are set up in the arena. Each obstacle carries from 10 to 120 points according to its difficulty.

2. The obstacles must be built so that they can be jumped in both directions.

3. The points allocated to the obstacles may be repeated at the discretion of the Course Designer. If it is not possible to place 12 obstacles in the arena, it is up to him to delete the obstacles he wishes.

4. The competitor is credited with the number of points carried by each obstacle that he has jumped correctly. No points awarded for an obstacle knocked down.

5. Each competitor has 45 seconds (minimum) to 90 seconds (maximum). During this time, he may jump all the obstacles he wishes in any order and in any direction. He must cross the starting line in either direction. The starting line must be provided with four flags; a red and a white flag at each end of the line.

6. Ringing the bell declares the end of the round. The competitor must then cross the finishing line in one direction or the other to allow his time to be recorded. If he does not cross the finishing line, he is placed last of the competitors with the same number of points. The finishing line must be provided with four flags; a red and a white flag at each end of the line.

7. If the fixed time is reached at the moment when the horse is already taking off, this obstacle counts if it is correctly jumped.
8. Any obstacle knocked down during a round will not be rebuilt, if it is jumped again, no points will be credited to the competitor. The same applies for knocking down an obstacle and for displacing a lower element positioned in the same vertical plane.

In the case of a disobedience without a knock-down, the competitor may jump that obstacle or continue to the next obstacle.

9. Each obstacle may be jumped twice. The act, voluntarily or not, of jumping an obstacle for the third time or of passing between the flags of an obstacle already knocked down does not incur elimination. However, the competitor does not score the points allotted to this obstacle.

10. All disobediences are penalised by the time lost by the competitor. There is no limit on the number of disobediences. The competitor must stop after a fall. Nevertheless he is placed according to the points obtained up to the moment of his fall, disregarding the time.

11. The competitor who has obtained the greatest number of points will be declared the winner. In the event of equality of points, the fastest time taken between the starting line and the finishing line will decide. In the event of equality of points and time for first place, there will be a jump-off according to the same formula with a fixed time of 40 seconds.

12. There are two options for using a Joker.

12.1 An obstacle may be provided as part of the course duly marked by flags and titled "Joker". The Joker may be jumped twice 200 points are awarded each time this obstacle is jumped correctly, but if it is knocked down, 200 points are deducted from the total points obtained so far by the competitor.

12.2. The Joker is not part of the main course. After the fixed time has expired, the bell is rung to end the competitor’s round. The competitor must cross the finishing line to have his time recorded. He then has 20 seconds in which to attempt the Joker once. Two hundred points are awarded if this obstacle is jumped correctly, but if is knocked down 200 points must be deducted from the total points obtained by the competitor.

13. If by ringing the bell, a Joker is required to be jumped within twenty seconds after the fixed time has expired and after the competitor has crossed the finishing line, only one attempt is allowed.