

# MERCIAN INTER-RIDING CLUB LEAGUE

## RULE BOOK 2017

The Mercian Team events began in 1984, when Jan Williams of Wolverley (then Stourbridge) Riding Club invited representatives from Affiliated Riding Clubs in an area roughly defined as being 'along the M5' to an informal meeting at which The Mercian Group was formed.

The original aims were to:

- avoid clashes of show dates by Riding Clubs
- exchange schedules and information with other Clubs across the Area
- foster inter-club competition at a level below official Riding Club Area level, which was felt to be getting beyond the reach of many of the riders that local Riding Clubs cater for.

Whilst the original aims of sharing information still applies, the inter-club competition became the key driver. Clubs now compete for a trophy awarded to the Club amassing the most points across the season at Mercian events.

### AFFILIATED CLUBS

Alvechurch Riding Club (BRC Area 5)

Bromyard Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Cheltenham Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Frampton Family Riding Club (BRC Area 9)

Shropshire South Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Worcester and District Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Bewdley Bridle Club (BRC Area 18)

Bromsgrove Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Crothorne and Evesham Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Malvern Hills Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

Vale of Arrow Riding Club (BRC Area 15)

Wyvern Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

### GENERAL RULES: ENTRIES

1. All competitions are open to any senior member (ie. over 18) of an Affiliated riding club within the Mercian Inter-Club League
2. Riders may ride for more than one club during the Mercian season, but not for different clubs on the same day.
3. No horse may compete at different levels or sections on the same day.
4. Horses must be entered under the name on their passport.
5. There are no restrictions on horses height, but all horses must be 4 years or over.
6. A club may enter as many teams as they wish into a competition, subject to rule 63.
7. All entries must be made by the closing date of the competition. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organising club.
8. Where open classes on run on the same day and a rider has entered the same height/test as their Mercian entry, they must ride their Mercian entry first.
9. Unless otherwise stated, all competitions are for teams of four, with the best three scores to count.
10. All competitions are run under current BRC rules, except where superseded by specific rules below.

### SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

#### ARENA EVENTING / ONE-DAY-EVENT

11. This is to be a **three phase event**, including dressage, show-jumping and cross-country. Some or all of which can take place on surface or on grass.
12. Teams of four, best three scores to count.
13. Novice Section: DR = BD or BRC Prelim. SJ / XC = maximum height 70cm or 2'3
14. Intermediate Section: DR = BD or BRC Prelim. SJ / XC = maximum height 75cm or 80cm or 2'6

#### COMBINED TRAINING

15. This is to be a two phase event, including dressage and show-jumping.
16. Novice Section: Two riders BD Intro and two riders BD or BRC Prelim. SJ = maximum height 70cm or 2'3
17. Intermediate Section: Two Riders BD or BRC Prelim and two riders BD or BRC Novice. SJ = maximum height 75cm or 80cm or 2'6

#### DRESSAGE

18. Teams of four, each rider to ride a different test.
19. Test are 1 BD Intro test, 2 BD or BRC Prelim tests and 1 BD or BRC Novice test.
20. Scoring is calculated on the Intro, Novice and the Best Prelim score in each team.

### DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

21. Teams of three, each rider to ride a different test.
22. Tests are BD Intro Freestyle, BD Prelim Freestyle & BD Novice Freestyle.
23. All three scores to count towards final score.

### EVENTER CHALLENGE

24. This will be a two phase event, including show jumping and cross-country
25. The two phases may run concurrently or riders may be given separate times for both phases.
26. Novice Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
27. Intermediate Section: maximum height 75cm or 80cm or 2'6

### HUNTER TRIALS

28. Teams of four, best three scores to count.
29. Novice Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
30. Intermediate Section: maximum height 75cm or 80cm or 2'6
31. Teams may consist of all members riding the same section, or two members in each section, at the organiser's discretion.

### SHOWING

32. Teams of four, best three scores to count. One member in each team to ride in a different class.
33. All classes are Ridden and the judge may choose to ride.
34. Class 1: Riding Club Horse (horse must be in a snaffle bridle and will be expected to jump a single fence of 75cm)
35. Class 2: Veteran Horse (horse or pony to be 17 years or over)
36. Class 3: Working Hunter (jumps maximum height 2'6)
37. Class 4: Coloured (open to piebald, skewbald, tri-coloured, dun, palomino, spotted or cremello)
38. In the event of a team tie, the results of the Riding Club Horse class will decide the winner.

### SHOW JUMPING

39. Teams of four, best three scores to count.
40. Novice Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
41. Intermediate Section: maximum height 75cm or 80cm or 2'6
42. May be run as single phase or two phase at the organiser's discretion.

### STYLE JUMPING

43. Teams of four, best three scores to count.
44. Novice Section: maximum height 70cm or 2'3
45. Intermediate Section: maximum height 75cm or 80cm or 2'6

### QUIZ

46. All members of the Quiz team MUST be members of the club
47. The organising club can choose format, however, it usually consists of approximately 10 rounds and has a least one horse related round.

### OTHER COMPETITIONS

48. If a club wishes to run a competition that does not fall under one of the above categories, they must submit a copy of the proposed schedule to the Mercian chair, along with details on how the event will be scored.

### **SCORING**

49. With the exception of the Quiz, all team places are calculated using the individual arena placings of the all team members.
50. In each arena or section, the winner earns one point, 2nd place 2 points and so on down the rankings. Every competitor therefore 'earns' a score unless disqualified.
51. The team with the lowest overall score will be declared the winner.
52. In ODE and Hunter Trials, there should only be a short timed section. This time is only used to decide places in the event of a tie.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Please refer to Appendix 1: Eligibility. In addition, the following rules apply:

53. **A horse that has been placed in the first three at a BRC Championship cannot compete in the same discipline at Mercian level for 1 year.**
54. While every effort has been made to cover all eventualities within appendix 1, where there are shortcomings, team managers are asked to make entries in the spirit of the Mercian Group principles.
55. If a team manager wishes to seek a dispensation for entering a combination that wouldn't normally be allowed as part of

the current eligibility, they must contact the organising club and the Mercian chair before doing so.

### POINTS LEAGUE

56. Points are awarded as follows: 1st = 12 points; 2nd = 10 points; 3rd = 8 points; 4th = 6 points; 5th = 4 points; 6th = 2 points. Any unplaced teams that participates = 1 point.
57. While a club may enter as many teams as they like (rule 6 & 7), only the two highest placed teams will be awarded 'place' points (ie. for 1st to 6th). Any further teams that are placed for that club will only earn 1 participation point. Place points will then be awarded to the next placed team from a different club.
58. 1 point will be awarded to each club that is represented at any Mercian Group meetings.
59. The league will be calculated on the 6 best places earned by each club. (for example, a club that wins 6 classes in the year will be placed above a club that wins 5 and comes 2nd in one).
60. In the event of a tie, the 7th best place will be taken into account, then the 8th, and so on down the line until the tie is broken, or one of the clubs involved does not have another score.

### RUNNING A COMPETITION

61. Any club wishing to run a competition within the league must put forward their proposals at the annual AGM held in the preceding year.
62. Final dates must be confirmed and related to the Mercian Chair before April 1st. Any dates confirmed after this, MUST be discussed with the Chair before schedules are finalised to ensure that no dates clash.
63. Where possible, Mercian events should not clash with BRC Area Qualifiers (NB. This effects Area 5, 9, 15 and 18 - the Mercian secretary will keep a list of dates as reference).
64. An organising club may restrict the number of teams entered per club if limited by time or space at the venue. However, if spaces subsequently become available, then these must be offered to the clubs already entered on an equal basis.
65. Schedules must clearly state the height of fences in cm or feet & inches.
66. Rosettes MUST be awarded 1st to 6th (minimum) on the day to all team places. Individual awards can be awarded at the discretion of the organising club, but if they AREN'T on offer, please state this on your schedule.
67. Schedules must be sent to the Mercian Secretary at least 1 month before the closing date of entries. Schedules will be distributed to all Team Managers on receipt.
68. A full copy of the results must be sent to the Mercian Secretary within a week of the competition.

### MERCIAN COMMITTEE 2017

Karen Withers	Chair	07894 800 221 karenwithers@me.com
Caroline Bates	Secretary	07900 376 272 merciansecretary@outlook.com

**GOOD LUCK!**

**Appendix 1: Eligibility of Horse & Rider Combinations for Mercian Team Competitions 2017**

<i>NB. If the below table does not cover an exact situation, please enter in the spirit of the Mercian League</i>	Unaffiliated Dressage			Unaffiliated Show Jumping / Hunter Trial / ODE		British Eventing & BRC Horse Trials Current & past		British Jumping Current & past		British Dressage Current & past				BRC Area Qualifiers <sup>a</sup> CURRENT YEAR	
	Horse and rider combination placed 3 x 1st in Prelim Dressage or above	Horse and rider combination placed 3 x 1st in Novice Dressage or above	Horse and rider combination placed 3 x 1st in Elementary Dressage or above	Horse and rider combination placed 3 x 1st at 80cm or above	Horse and rider combination placed 3 x 1 <sup>st</sup> at 90 or above	Horse and rider combination completing BE/BRC80 level or above	Horse and rider combination with foundation points	Horse and rider has any points	Horse and rider has 200 points or more	Horse and rider combination with Prelim or 0 Foundation points Only	Horse and rider combination up to 10 points	Horse and Rider Combination competing at Prelim Silver Section or Above	Horse and Rider Combination competing at Novice Silver Section or Above	HORSE competes at Novice Area Qualifiers* or above	HORSE competes at Intermediate Area Qualifiers** or above
<b>Introductory Dressage &amp; DTM</b>	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Preliminary Dressage &amp; DTM</b>		X	X								X	X	X		X
<b>Novice Dressage &amp; DTM</b>			X										X		
<b>Novice Show &amp; Style Jumping</b>				X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
<b>Intermediate Show &amp; Style Jumping</b>					X		X		X						X
<b>Novice CT</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
<b>Intermediate CT</b>			X		X		X		X		X	X	X		X
<b>Novice Eventing</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X
<b>Intermediate Eventing</b>			X		X		X		X		X	X	X		X
<b>Novice Two Phase / Eventer Challenge</b>				X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
<b>Intermediate Two Phase / Eventer Challenge</b>					X		X		X						X
<b>Novice Hunter Trials</b>				X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
<b>Intermediate Hunter Trials</b>					X		X		X						X

<sup>a</sup> NB. This is discipline specific ie. A horse competing in an Intermediate Show Jumping Qualifier cannot compete in the Mercian Show or Style Jumping, but could compete in the Mercian Dressage

\* Novice refers to - Novice Summer and Winter Dressage and Show Jumping, Novice DTM, 75cm Style Jumping and Combined Training, 80cm Horse Trials and Eventer Challenge

\*\* Intermediate refers to - Intermediate Summer and Winter Dressage and Show Jumping, Elementary DTM, 85cm Style Jumping and Combined Training, 90cm Horse Trials and Eventer Challenge