



**HORSESPORT**

A U S T R A L I A

**HORSESPORT**  
**AUSTRALIA**

**Combined Training Rules**

**Effective: January 2026**

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# Combined Training Events

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PREAMBLE

The following Rules have been adopted by HorseSport Australia and are recommended to be followed by all affiliate clubs running Combined Training Events.

Every eventuality has been considered but cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or unexpected circumstances, it is the duty of the Technical Delegate (TD), Ground Jury (GJ) or the Organising Committee (OC) to make a decision in a sporting spirit whilst committing as closely as possible to the intention of these Rules.

Establishment of rules are so the Competitors may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions. These rules are intended in the broadest possible spirit to allow Organising Committees the fullest freedom in the management of their Events and formulation of programs.

These Rules are to be followed in conjunction with all Rules and Regulations of HorseSport Australia.

### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1. Combined Training is a Competition comprising of a Dressage Test and a Showjumping round where the penalties incurred in each phase are added together. Combined Training is always scored in penalty points therefore the Competitor with the LOWEST score has the highest placing.
- 1.2. Horses must be a minimum of 4 years of age to enter this event.

### 2. SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

- 2.1. Only saddlery and equipment, as specified are permitted.
- 2.2. An English type saddle and any form of bridle is compulsory.
- 2.3. Double bridles may not be used in the Dressage phase of Combined Training.
- 2.4. Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/ or towel - whether the skin is broken or not - is strictly forbidden at any event when the horse is under saddle during training, warm-up and competition and will entail elimination, unless, under special circumstances, permission is obtained from the Organising Committee. Belly bands are allowed in the showjumping phase.
- 2.5. Riding helmets and riding boots must be worn whilst mounted. It is the competitor's responsibility to confirm their helmets comply with currently approved safety standards. See <https://www.horsesportaus.com.au/rules-2/>

- 2.6. Ear hoods are permitted for all events; however, ears must be able to move freely and must not cover the horse's eyes. Ear hoods must not be attached to the noseband.
- 2.7. False tails are permitted.
- 2.8. Plaiting of horses is optional.
- 2.9. **SADDLERY – DRESSAGE**
  - a) In dressage tests for Combined Training either a cavesson, Hanoverian, dropped, crossed or flash noseband must be worn.
  - b) The bit must be a snaffle bit made in metal, leather, rubber or plastic material. The carrying of a whip is not permitted.
  - c) A breastplate (without rings) may be used. Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balance reins etc), any kind of boots or bandages, tongue depressors and any form of blinkers are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.
  - d) Bits where the mouthpieces rings restrict the reins to move freely are not permitted. Bits that can slide vertically creating a gag effect are not permitted.
  - e) Neck straps are permitted if attached to either the breastplate or saddle.
  - f) Nose covers/nets are allowed in both phases.
  - g) Toe stoppers are permitted in all phases
- 2.10. **SADDLERY – SHOWJUMPING**
  - a) Whips may be carried; running martingales, bandages and boots are also permissible.
  - b) A Steward may be appointed to check the saddlery and dress before the commencement of each phase.

### 2.11. DRESS

Riders should wear light-coloured jodhpurs/breeches and a shirt with a collar (or closed at the top) and sleeves and be neat and tidy. Advertising logos are not allowed on shirts except standard brand logos in small size.

- a) Riding jackets are optional.
- b) Gloves are compulsory.

## 3. ORDER OF PHASES

### 3.1 Combined Training Events

- 3.1.1. The Dressage Test must always be ridden first. The draw must provide for Competitors to have an interval of 30 minutes between the completion of Dressage and the start of the Showjumping.

## 4. SCORING

- 4.1. The same Horse/Rider Combination must compete in both phases mounted. Elimination from one phase involves elimination from the whole Competition.

Eliminated combinations may continue only with the permission of the Technical Delegate.

- 4.2. To calculate Dressage Penalty Points, a total of positive marks is first calculated by dividing the Competitor's total good marks and errors of the Judge by the maximum possible good marks, then multiplying by 100 and rounding to two decimal places. For events with multiple Judges, the total good marks for each judge are added together and then divided by the number of Judges. The Competitor's percentage is then converted into Dressage penalty points, by subtracting the total of good marks from 100, with the resulting figure rounded to two decimal places. This result is the Dressage penalty points for the Competitor.
- 4.3. Dressage test callers allowed only in Classes below 60cm in height.
- 4.4. Showjumping rounds are judged under Table A, one round timed.
- 4.5. The final score for each Competitor is reached by adding together all the penalty points incurred from the phases.
- 4.6. The winner is the Competitor with the lowest total of penalty points.
- 4.7. In the event of equality of penalty points in Combined Training the winner shall be the Competitor with the highest positive dressage marks. If there is still a tie, the winner shall be the Competitor with the highest Collective Marks in the Dressage phase. In the event there remains equality, the Competitors are placed equal.
- 4.8. Rules 4.7 and 4.7 apply to tied placegetters also.

## **5. RIDING IN ARENAS**

- 5.1. Competitors may not, under penalty of elimination, ride on, over nor enter the Dressage or Showjumping arenas, except when actually competing.

## **DRESSAGE PHASE**

### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1. OC's are able to choose dressage tests.
- 1.2. The Rules for the Dressage phase are the same as those set out in "Rules for Dressage Events", except where modified in these Rules.
- 1.3. If there is doubt as to the soundness of the horse, the Competitor will be allowed to complete the Test, and any unevenness of pace will be severely penalised.
- 1.4. The Judge will report the matter to the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury who will decide if the horse shall be permitted to continue in the Competition. If the horse is so lame, that in the opinion of the Judge, it ought not to be asked to complete the Test, the Judge may, without appeal, eliminate the Competitor.

## **2. MARKING SHEETS**

- 2.1. The Judges' marking sheets must be made available to Competitors when the Dressage penalties for all Competitors in their Section have been posted.
- 2.2. Rule 2.1 does not apply at Combined Training Events when a Competitor is to compete in a second Dressage Test under the same Judge.

## **SHOWJUMPING PHASE**

### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1. "Rules for Showjumping Events" must be used except where modified within these Rules including the use of an Official Course Designer.
- 1.2. The Showjumping phase consists of one round of the course (no jump off), judged under the Rules of Table A.

### **2. SHOWJUMPING COURSE SPECIFICATIONS**

- 2.1. The course will be simple and straightforward, with easy intervals between the obstacles, and will be laid out over a distance of not more than 750 metres. The showjumping phase of a Combined Training Event is not an ordinary Showjumping Competition, nor a test of style or endurance. Its sole objective is to prove that the horses have suppleness, energy and obedience necessary for them to complement their dressage test.
- 2.2. Red and white boundary flags and/or "S" and "F" letters mark the start and finish.
- 2.3. The plan of the course, showing the Time Allowed, must be posted not less than one hour before the Showjumping commences. The course will be available for inspection at least 30 minutes before the start of the Showjumping.
- 2.4. Before the commencement of each level and/or section of competition, a break of 10 minutes minimum should be allowed for Competitors to walk the course.
- 2.5. There will be 10 or 12 numbered obstacles, including one combination up to and including 1.05m. Treble combinations must not be used up to and including 1.05m.
- 2.6. In Combined Training, the Show Jumping Heights, Widths and Speeds listed below must be used. Heights listed are a range and classes can be 60cm or 65cm, etc. Maximum dimensions for the first two fences must be at least 5cm lower than the maximum dimensions for the level.

<b>SHOW JUMPING SPECIFICATIONS</b>					
Maximum Height cm	105	90 or 95	70 or 80	60 or 65	45 or 55
Maximum Width cm	110	95 or 100	80 or 90	60 or 65	45 or 55
Speed	325	325	300	300	300
Distance	600	600	600	600	600
Distance from start to first fence & last fence to finish.	6 -15m (all levels)				

2.7. The penalties for the Showjumping phase are as follows:

	<b>PENALTIES:</b>
First disobedience	4 penalties
Second disobedience in whole round	8 penalties
Third disobedience in whole round	Elimination
Knocking down an obstacle	4 penalties
Touching boundary mark of water or feet in the water or in the ditch	4 penalties
First fall of horse and/or Rider	Elimination
Error of course not rectified	Elimination
Omission of obstacle or boundary flag	Elimination
Retaking an obstacle already jumped	Elimination
Jumping obstacle in wrong order	Elimination
For every commenced second in excess of the Time Allowed	.25 penalty

# OFFICIALS

## 1. JUDGES

- 1.1. The Judges for Combined Training Events are appointed by the Organising Committee.
- 1.2. For the Showjumping phase, it is preferable to utilise the services of a suitably qualified or trained Judge. The Judge must be fully conversant with the Rules governing HSA Showjumping Events.

## 2. TECHNICAL DELEGATE

- 2.1.1. A Technical Delegate may be appointed at Combined Training events. The Technical Delegate, in conjunction with the organising committee, shall endeavour to ensure that all the arrangements for the competition are fair, safe and appropriate. In the absence of a Technical Delegate, the Organising Committee will officiate. The duties of the Technical Delegate include but are not limited to:
  - a) Addressing breaches of the rules at the event
  - b) Overseeing the design and construction of Show Jumping courses if a Chief Course Designer is not in attendance.
  - c) Addressing matters relating to safety and welfare
- 2.1.2 Any breaches of the rules are to be reported to the Technical Delegate in the first instance. The Technical Delegate has the authority to address such or may refer the matter to the Organising Committee for resolution.
- 2.2. The Organising Committee must appoint a first aid organisation or at least one person holding a minimum Senior First Aid qualifications (or equivalent) to be on site at all time during the event.

# COMMUNICATION

- 1.1. Handheld radios may be provided to all key personnel at Combined Training events including:
  - Safety / Risk Management Officer
  - Technical Delegate
  - Dressage Marshall
  - Show Jumping Marshall
  - Veterinarian - onsite or contact details for on call vet available
  - Event Secretary

## **MISCONDUCT**

Definition: any breach of the code of conduct including but not limited to:

- a) Not following the instructions of the Officials.
- b) Behaviour or use of language in a manner which may be considered offensive.

## **ABUSE OF HORSE**

Refer to [“HorseSport Rules and Policies for Clubs 7.5 Cruelty and Abuse of Horse”](#)

## **DANGEROUS RIDING & UNFITNESS OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER**

Refer to [“HorseSport Rules and Policies for Clubs 8. “General Event Rules of the Association”](#)