

# ZIMBABWE EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION



## SHOWJUMPING RULES INCLUDING RANKING RULES

LAST AMENDED DECEMBER 2024, JANUARY 2026  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2026

## PREAMBLE

These National Showjumping Regulations should be read in conjunction with the ZEF General National Regulations and the FEI Rules for Jumping, where these rules are silent.

Regulations for Showjumping published February 2025 and updated January 2026 replaces and supersede all previously published Showjumping Regulations.

It is not possible to provide for every conceivable eventuality in these Rules. If there is no rule to deal specifically with a particular circumstance, or if the nearest interpretation of the pertinent rule would result in an obvious injustice, it is the duty of those responsible to make a decision based on common sense and fair play, whilst at all times ensuring that horse welfare is at the forefront of all decision making, thus reflecting as closely as possible the intention of these Showjumping Regulations.

“IN ALL EQUESTRIAN SPORTS THE INTEREST OF THE HORSE MUST BE CONSIDERED  
PARAMOUNT”

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## **SECTION 1**

### **National Sports Rules for Showjumping**

#### **1. Competitions**

It is not the intention to standardize jumping competitions, as variety is an important element of interest for competitors and horses alike.

Events may be held in one of the following categories:

- i) Unranked
  - Junior/Adult – height below 80cm (no athlete under 11 years of age).
  - Pony Rider heights below 70cm (until end of year they turn 14).
- ii) Ranked as per ranking lists
  - Adult and Junior starts at 80cm (no athlete under 11 years of age).
  - Pony Rider start at 70cm (until end of year they turn 14).
- iii) Development heights
  - Ranked from 85cm, 95cm, 105cm etc.

#### **2. Unranked Events**

- a) Unranked events do not carry ranking points and are intended to assist in the training of horses and competitors under various conditions.
- b) These events may be based on heights of obstacles, limited time in the arena, schooling rounds etc.
- c) If competing at a single day show or in a show over two consecutive days, a horse/pony may only compete in a maximum of three rounds per day. If a horse/pony is competing for 3 or more consecutive days they may only compete in a maximum of two rounds per day. (2-phase is classed as one round, 2 round competitions are 2 rounds).

#### **3. Ranked Events**

- a) Ranked events may include combined classes for Juniors and Adults, see Table 1.
- b) Ranking points and possibly prizes and/or rosettes/certificates awarded.
- c) Ranking points can be obtained at any ranked height. Any ranking points won shall be accrued using the ranking formula outlined in the Annex.
- d) Should a horse/pony qualify for a championship class in two different heights, the competitor may only participate in one championship class and must advise the Organising Committee by 16h00 on the previous day. In the event of the list of qualifiers not being available by that time or should the championship competition be held on the same day as the last qualifier, declarations should be made within one hour of posting the list.
- e) A horse competing in two classes may only be competitive in the first class of the same Article number of the day. Subsequent classes of the same article number will always be non-competitive for the same horse on the same day.
- f) If competing at a single day show or in a show over two consecutive days, a horse/pony may only compete in a maximum of three rounds per day. If a horse/pony is competing for 3 or more consecutive days they may only compete in a maximum of two rounds per day. (2-phase is classed as one round, 2 round competitions are 2 rounds).

- g) Event Organizers, at their sole discretion, may allow an athlete to change their class entries during an Event. This change may only be a swap of classes, i.e., moving a horse/rider combination from a 100cm class to a 90cm class which it has not entered. Athletes may not use this clause to make additional entries, and changes must be requested within a reasonable timeframe from the end of the previous class.
- h) Novelty competitions should not qualify for championships, but there should be at least two standard type competitions which do count.
- i) You may change a horse or rider but not both. This may only be done in the same height entered.
- j) The prize list may contain the maximum dimensions for each class and the jumps may not be built higher than this given a tolerance of 3cm to allow for equipment (other than novelty competitions such as puissance, six bar, accumulator, etc.)
- k) If a horse/rider combination are eliminated in any class at a show, they may not request to move to a height higher than that already stated on their entry form, for the duration of the show.
- l) No buying or selling of entries for ANY shows.

**4. Development Height Events**

- a) Development Height Events are based on the height of obstacles with classes offered such as 85cm, 95cm, 1.05m, 1.15m etc.
- b) Ranking points will be accrued to the corresponding ranking list which is the height 5cm lower than the development height, e.g. a 1.05m round will accrue points to the 1.00m ranking list.
- c) The OPEN class for Seniors will encompass all heights 1.30m and above and be regarded as a single grade. Athletes can decide on whether they ride at 1.30m or 1.40m, but will be awarded ranking points in the same category – “OPEN”.

**Table 1 - Heights – Junior and Adult**

0.80m	combined	
0.85m	development	
0.90m	combined	
0.95m	development	
1.00m	combined	
1.05m	development	
1.10m	combined	
1.15m	development	
1.20m	combined	
1.25m	development	
1.30m	combined	Classified as OPEN
1.35m	development	
1.40m	combined	

**Table 2 - Heights – Pony Riders**

0.70m	
0.80m	
0.85m	development
0.90m	
0.95m	development
1.00m	
1.05m	development
1.10m	
1.15m	development
1.20m	

**5. Order of Jumping**

- a) The Organizing Committee shall decide the starting order of each competition by a draw (see clause f). The order of jumping will be available at the show secretary's office, Branch Office and, if published, the Event Programme or Catalogue.
- b) Should an athlete have two or more horses/ponies in a competition the starting order must be adjusted to ensure that these horses/ponies do not compete too close together. If possible, at least five horses must separate the competitor's horses, but these horses must compete in the order drawn.
- c) Competitors must compete in the order shown in the Catalogue or list, unless the Ground Jury directs otherwise, in order to comply with regulation 5b) or for other good reasons.
- d) An athlete who has missed his/her turn for some good reason may, at the discretion of the judges, be allowed to compete, but should do so as soon as possible and not at the end of a competition. The competitor will revert to list order for any jump offs.
- e) The starting order of a competition which includes one or more jump-offs must strictly follow the initial order unless otherwise stated in the rules of that competition.
- f) In championship competitions for which athletes have qualified, unless otherwise stated in the prize list, athletes will jump with the lowest qualifier first, highest qualifier last.- An athlete with two or more horses/ponies should be provided a reasonable space between them and may be placed higher in the starting order to allow this, but never lower. This order will be maintained throughout the competition.

**6. Number of horses permitted**

- a) Unless it is expressly stated to the contrary in the rules of any competition, no athlete may ride more than three horses in any competition.
- b) A horse/pony must have finished in at least one of the qualifying competitions to be eligible for the championship class.
- c) It is not permissible to restrict entries other than by the use of a standard.

**7. Fall of the Horse or Rider**

An athlete who has a fall anywhere at the venue during the course of an Event, must have medical clearance from the official medic before being allowed to remount. An athlete must

dismount a horse who has fallen, and the horse must be cleared before an athlete is allowed to remount. Where a veterinarian is unavailable, an experienced horseperson may be asked to clear the horse in accordance with Clause 10c.

## **8. 'Open Competitions'**

- a) Competitions advertised as 'Open' should normally be the most prestigious competitions in the Event.
- b) The course for an Open competition must never be less than the minimum standard laid down or recommended for the highest grade taking part.
- c) Horses registered in classes 1.30m and above will be eligible for Open Classes.
- d) Athletes shall be placed according to the results of the competition, irrespective of heights.

## **9. Combined / Handicapped Competitions**

- a) Event Organisers may hold combined competitions open to Pony Riders, Juniors, Juniors and Adults, and Adults.
- b) Event Organisers **may** handicap athletes from higher or lower heights should there only be two competitors or less entered. Unranked classes may not be handicapped with ranked classes, and a maximum of two consecutive heights only may be combined e.g. 0.80m and 0.90cm may be combined but not 0.80m and 1.00m. The course shall be set at the appropriate height for these competitors. Event Organisers reserve the right to run each class on their own if they so choose, irrespective of number of athletes.
- c) Athletes shall be placed according to the results of the competition, irrespective of ranking heights.
- d) Athletes will accrue ranking points according to the height within which they were competing, for example in a handicapped 1.20/1.30m adult class, the athletes who jumped at 1.20m will earn points for the 1.20m ranking list and the athletes jumping at 1.30m will earn points for the open ranking list in accordance with the ranking table below.

## **10. Welfare of the Horse**

- a) Horse welfare is of primary importance. Should an athlete, coach, official or member of the public jeopardise the welfare of the horse they are liable to be sanctioned in accordance with the ZEF and FEI general regulations.
- b) The ground jury is responsible to make any decisions regarding horse welfare. The Ground Jury being the Judges, Vet delegate and Stewards at the show. The President of the Ground Jury is the Head Judge of the competition.
- c) Should the Ground Jury require advice regarding horse welfare (such as lameness, blood rule, etc) and they require further expertise (for example if a vet is not available) the President may call upon one or several of the following who may be deemed to be experts in the field. The Athletes representative (or a member of the Athletes Commission), a senior official not on duty, the course designer, or a senior coach (with more than 10 years' experience). None of these individuals are to have any bias - perceived or otherwise and if so must exclude themselves from the situation. All final decisions will remain solely with the President of the Ground Jury.
- d) In accordance with FEI Article 263.2's welfare guidelines, it is recommended that any horse/rider pair accumulating 16 jumping penalties during a round (for example, four knocked poles, or one refusal and three poles down) should be eliminated mid-round if the judge believes the safety or well-being of the horse or rider is at risk. Eliminations are entirely at the judge's discretion and cannot be appealed or contested. It is important to note that time penalties are separate from jumping penalties and should not be factored into this decision.

- e) A horse/rider combination must have 3 clear rounds in a ranked height before they move up a height (development heights can be jumped and are counted as the height 5cm lower). Should a horse/rider combination wish to move up a grade prior to achieving this, they may apply via email to their Branch Committee with information on shows, dates, class types and results provided they have no more than 4 jumping penalties in a round (a minimum of 3 rounds must have been jumped). There should be sufficient reason for the Branch Committee to consider this application, stated in the email.  
Horse/rider combinations who wish to move from 1.20m to 1.30m must have 5 clear rounds at 1.20m before they can move up.
- f) Athletes who enter a class on a horse they have not previously competed on, should do so at a level they feel is appropriate for the horse/rider combination, and in the knowledge that clause 10d of Welfare of the Horse above will apply.

## **11. Welfare of the Rider**

- a) Rider welfare is of primary importance. Should another athlete, coach, official or member of the public jeopardise the welfare of a rider they are liable to be sanctioned in accordance with the ZEF and FEI general regulations.
- b) The ground jury is responsible to make any decisions regarding rider welfare. The Ground Jury being the Judges, Vet delegate and Stewards at the show. The President of the Ground Jury is the Head Judge of the competition. The ground jury make seek consultation with the rider's representative, course designer or a senior coach (with more than 10 years' experience). None of these individuals are to have any bias - perceived or otherwise and if so must exclude themselves from the situation. All final decisions will remain solely with the President of the Ground Jury.
- c) In accordance with FEI Article 263.2, it is recommended that the senior judge eliminate a horse/rider combination whilst a round is ongoing if they decide that this would be in the best interest of the wellbeing/safety of the athlete and/or horse. This applies, but is not limited to, an athlete that does not have control of the horse, or where an athlete appears to be unsafe for whatever reason. The decision to eliminate is final and not subject to appeal or protest.

## **12. National Championships**

- a) A horse/rider combination will only be allowed to compete at one height at National Championships.
- b) Horse/Rider Combinations must have completed at least one round in a ranked show that year in the height in which they wish to compete in the national championships in order to qualify.
- c) All athletes or their representatives must do two duties in that year before the National Championships. Paying a non-duty levy for shows does not exempt an athlete from this.
- d) National Championship trophies will be awarded out to the winner of each Championship class.

## **13. Duties**

- a) All athletes must pay a non-duty fee for every event, should they not be willing to do a duty, provided this is an option by the Organising Committee (OC).
- b) Clause 12c applies for National Championships

## SECTION 2

### Ranking Regulations

#### 1. Application

- a) These Regulations should be read in conjunction with the ZEF National General Regulations relating, but not limited to, athlete's license to compete, horse registration and licensing, eligibility in terms of rider age and eligibility of horse.
- b) The ranking regulation shall apply to ranked showjumping competitions held by the ZEF.
- c) Should it be required, the Central committee may ask for certain international competitions to be included in the ranking calculations.

#### 2. Ranking Records

- a) The Branches will keep records of the performance of all registered horses in all forms of graded individual showjumping competitions (whether or not they are combined or are specified for more than one height). ZEF Events and these results must be sent to the ZEF Secretary by the Organisers within seven days of the end of each Event.

#### 3. Adult, Junior, Children's and Combined Competitions

- a) Showjumping competitions shall be either for Adults or for Juniors or for Children, (Children and Junior grades may never be combined), or for Adults and Juniors together, or for Adults and Young Riders together.

#### 4. Ranking Period

- a) The ranking period is from the first ranked competition following the national championships until the following national championships for each calendar year.

#### 5. Ranking Points.

Only horses that complete the competition with a total of 12 penalties or less (jumping and time penalties combined), will be awarded ranking points.

Where only 1 rider is competitive in a class they may earn ranked points provided they meet the minimum standards (12 penalties or less).

Ranking points will be awarded as follows:

#### Ranking points Timetable

Starters	>20	19 - 17	16 - 14	13 - 11	10 - 8	7 - 5	4 - 1
1st	30	28	26	24	23	22	21
2nd	25	23	21	19	18	17	16
3rd	21	19	17	15	12	11	10
4th	18	16	14	12	9	8	7

<b>5th</b>	16	14	12	10	7	5
<b>6th</b>	15	13	11	9	6	3
<b>7th</b>	14	12	10	8	5	2
<b>8th</b>	13	11	9	7	4	
<b>9th</b>	12	10	8	6	3	
<b>10th</b>	11	9	7	5	2	
<b>11th</b>	10	8	6	4		
<b>12th</b>	9	7	5	3		
<b>13th</b>	8	6	4	2		
<b>14th</b>	7	5	3			
<b>15th</b>	6	4	2			
<b>16th</b>	5	3	1			
<b>17th</b>	4	2				
<b>18th</b>	3	1				
<b>19th</b>	2					
<b>20th</b>	1					

- a) No points awarded in the following cases:
- i) When entries have been restricted on any basis other than height or past or current performance.
  - ii) Consolation events.
- b) In the event of a tie for any place the number of points awarded shall be the full points earned for that place for each rider.
- c) In adult classes that include young riders, each prize winner in the competition shall receive points on the above-mentioned scales, irrespective of the list upon which it is registered.
- d) At the end of each ranking year the highest points earner of each age category at each height, within their branch, will be awarded the most points Trophy at their nominated branch ceremony - Mashonaland being National Championships (Mashonaland Most Points) and Matabeleland being HOTY (Matabeleland Most Points).
- e) National Most Points will be awarded at National Championships by way of a certificate or trophy where available. These will be points awarded from a total of 4 ranked shows, inclusive of HOTY (Bulawayo), National Championships (Harare), May Show (Harare), and one ranked show to be agreed upon by the head of Show Jumping of each branch - the same courses will be jumped by competitors in only one venue per branch within a 2 week period and the results will be merged in order to assign points.