

BRC Area dressage competitions rules 2026

Below is helpful information for club members to check the various rules to compete in the qualifiers.

Riders can carry a schooling whip.

Spurs can be worn from prelim tests upwards. But must be blunt or with smooth rowels.

The spur is not to exceed 4cm from heel to point of spur.

Spurs are not allowed in intro tests.

New updated BRC rule: It is not compulsory to wear gloves.

Riders are allowed a test caller at Area competitions, but not a championships.

Two bridle or saddle cloth numbers must be worn – one on each side.

Please make sure the correct tack and bits are used. Bit diagrams are on British dressage rule book.

Tack can be checked from pages 89 onwards in the BRC Handbook 2026.

BRC Flu Vaccination Rules for 2026. It is the responsibility of the rider to check that their horse's flu vaccinations dates are all in order.

All flu dates must be correct right back from the 1st initial injection through to the current booster injection.

All horses must have been vaccinated within 12 months of the competition date.

Flu vaccinations boosters must be done every year within 12 months.

For area 6 and championships - No flu vaccination must be done within 7 days prior to the date of the competition. If the date is incorrect the horse will be disqualified from competing.

More info read rules on eligibility for competing & Flu vaccination rules in the

[Google: British Riding Club Handbook 2026 – page 23 - 24.](#)

Horse's passports are sometimes checked at area 6 competitions and organisers do spot checks.

Please carry the passport with you just in case. All horse's passports will be checked at the gate and at the secretary's office on arrival at BRC championships.

Prior to 1st January 2024 BRC rule for horses starting their flu vaccinations from the beginning.
1st vaccination date.

2nd vaccination: 21– 92 days

3rd vaccination: 150 -215 days

Annual booster: Not more than 12 months apart.

New BRC ruling on dates for horses starting a new course flu vaccinations.

From: 1st January 2024 onwards.

(The dates in between have shortened).

1st Vaccination

2nd vaccination: between 21 – 60 days

3rd vaccination: between 120 – 180 days.

Annual booster under 12 months.

Protective Headwear Rules.

BRC have updated their rules on riding / competition hats for 2026.

All riding / competition hats worn at Area 6 qualifying competitions will need to be tagged with the PINK tag. If members have a new hat or haven't ridden in an area 6 competition qualifier before.

Hats must be checked & pink tagged on day of competition the at secretary's office before competing.

BRC rule came on 1st January 2024: PAS 015: 1998 and SNELL E2001 will no longer be accepted.

Hats must meet one of the following standards.

British: PAS 015 2011 with BSI Kite mark or Inspec IC mark

VG1 01.040: 2014-12 with BSI Kite mark or Inspec IC mark

European:

BS EN 1384 (2023) will be accepted provided they are kite marked or inspec IC marked.

American: ASTM F1163: 2015 onwards with SEI mark and SNELL E2016 or 2021 onwards.

Australian & NZ: AS/NZS 3838: 2006 onwards with SAI global mark.

BRC body protectors rules for 2026.

Body protectors are only mandatory for any cross-country competitions but if riders want to wear one for show Jumping or dressage these are the rules.

BETA Level 3 displaying a Blue 2018 Label to be worn

From January 1st 2024 the BETA 2009 Purple Label will no longer be accepted.

The exception to this requirement is that the EXO Body cages will continue to be accepted, provided they have a BETA Level 3 Purple 2000 Label.

If a rider chooses to wear an airbag style body protector for XC it must be worn over a permitted BETA Level 3 body protector.

Hybrid Air-jackets / air jackets incorporated into blouson style jacket are permitted provided they are also to the BETA 2018 standard.

Exo Body Cages are permitted with a Level 3 2000 purple label – the secretary must be **notified so they can inform the paramedics they need an Allen key.**

Please read & check riding hat rules in BRC Handbook **Page 34.**