



RDA VIRTUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SATURDAY 25TH & SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE



Welcome

We know the importance of competing for many of our riders, vaulters and drivers, and we want to make sure that everyone who would like compete this year has the opportunity to do so. We will be holding a Virtual National Championships with a two day live stream event taking place on Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September. The Virtual National Championships will include all the usual activities and may even encourage more people to take part, as there will not be any travel involved.

This will be an exciting new way for us to run a competition and if successful, this could pave the way for a virtual element in future Championships.

Please find below the schedule for the Virtual National Championships including what classes will be running and also discipline specific information.

A guide has been put together on how best to video the test or discipline you wish to take part in. This can be found on the National Championships page of the MYRDA website. The link is: <https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/national-championships/>

We will be using Horse Monkey which is the entry system we have had in place at the National Championships for the past four years. Full details on how to enter will be sent to you once you have qualified at your regional qualifier. A guide has been produced on how you enter, this can be found on the National Championships page of the MYRDA website. <https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/national-championships/>

Nothing, of course, will compare to us all getting together face to face at Hartpury. We look forward to seeing you there in 2022.

Best wishes and good luck.

Anne Coney

National Championship Lead

Arts & Crafts

All classes will now be split junior and senior as per the RDA rules. There is no requirement to have a relevance to RDA in the art work. The special class for this year will be in the form of a picture to be displayed at the RDA National Training Centre. Please see the Arts & Crafts rules for full information.

Who can enter?

The Arts & Crafts competition, as part of the RDA Virtual National Championships, is always an incredibly popular event – providing a great opportunity for riders, vaulters and carriage drivers to express themselves through art. It is open to all participants of all ages in RDA and gives everyone the chance to take part in the RDA Virtual National Championships in some way, and to achieve recognition.

Classes are available, with **junior** and **senior** sections, for both **individual** and **group** artwork, and entries can be made in the form of drawings, paintings, collages, sculptures, textile creations and even photography.

You will need to take up to four pictures of your artwork and upload them with your entry. Make sure you take pictures at different angles of your artwork.

How will the artwork be marked?

The following updated marking system will be used for Classes 45 to 51 at both the regional judging and the finals at the RDA National Championships:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Relevance to Class | 20 marks |
| 2. | Composition | 20 marks |
| 3. | Originality and imagination | 20 marks |
| 4. | Use of colour and materials | 20 marks |
| 5. | Overall impression | 20 marks |
| Total | | 100marks |

Sizing guide for all classes:

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 (W x H) | 594mm x 841mm / 23.4" x 33.1" |
| A2 (W x H) | 420mm x 594mm / 16.5" x 23.4" |

Maximum size of sculptures

We do not specify a maximum size for sculpture classes. But please bear in mind that any work submitted needs to be able to picture as a whole sculpture.

Definition of Artwork Types

Artwork entered in the wrong class will not be judged - so please avoid any disappointment by carefully reading the following definitions of 'Pictures/ Painting and Drawing', 'Collage', 'Sculpture' and 'Photograph' for the purposes of this competition:

Paintings/Drawings: Artwork must be produced using pens, inks, crayons, pencils or similar, with no details stuck on, or extra embellishments added.

Photography: Entries in this class must be photographs taken by the entrant themselves, to show off their photography skills. Still digital or analogue camera (film) prints acceptable. Please ensure that written permission has been obtained from any people featured (if applicable) before sharing any images. Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames.

Collages: Artwork must be created by sticking different materials such as photographs, pictures, coloured paper, fabric onto paper or card, canvas, a sheet of fabric etc. Collage classes will also encompass embroidery pieces, on a flat canvas or cloth. Work must be one-sided and be wall-mountable. Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames

Sculptures: Artwork can be in any material. Sculpture classes will also include any textile work that is multi-dimensional and not flat. Please note the size restrictions for these classes, and the portability of the artwork.

Class 32: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Paintings and Drawings – Individual or Group of up to 4

Entries in this class can be made using watercolours, oils, acrylics, pencil, crayon, pen and ink or pastel etc. Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. Max. size A1

Class 33: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Collage – Individual

Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. Max. size A2.

Class 34: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Collages – Group (maximum 10 people)

Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. Max. size A1.

Class 35: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Sculpture – Individual

Class 36: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Sculpture – Group (maximum 10 people)

Class 37: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Photography Class – Individual entry only (photos must be taken by the participant themselves)

Black & white or colour entries welcome.

Class 38: NEW FOR 2021 ONLY! (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

A picture for The RDA National Training Centre – Individual or Group of up to 10

Your chance to design an extra special picture to decorate RDA National Office! **Entries must be no larger than A2 size, and consist of paintings, drawings or lightweight collages only.** Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. The overall winning entries (one junior and one senior) will be hung on a prominent wall at RDA National Office in Warwickshire, for at least 12 months, to be admired by staff and visitors alike! You can be as creative and imaginative as you like, following a general equestrian theme, of course.

Entries in this class must be judged at regional qualifiers, as per the other classes.

Closing Date

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- Individual £6.00 per person Group £6.00 per person (up to maximum £24 per entry)

Carriage Driving

The competition for this year consists of a dressage test and a cones course only. Carriage Driving this year will direct entry to the RDA Virtual National Championships.

The Carriage Driving competition will go ahead subject to COVID -19 rules and regulations at the time.

The objective of the driven dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bend of the horses on the move. Drivers will also be judged on style, accuracy, and general control of their horses, and on their dress, condition of their harness and carriage and the presentation of their whole turnout.

The cones competition is to test the fitness, obedience suppleness of the horses, and the skill and competence of the driver. Penalties from the cones course are added to the dressage test and the driver with the lowest number of penalties will win the competition.

Driver Categories

- Novice – Any driver who drives with dual reins and has not won the novice class at the RDA National Championships
- Intermediate – Any driver who has won the Novice Class or is qualified to drive with single reins and has not won the intermediate class at the RDA National Championships
- Open – Any driver has won the intermediate class and any driver assessed as competent for their coach to back step.

The arena size for the dressage test can be either 50mx25m or 60mx30m depending on space available. For more information about arena size and layout please click on the following links.

<https://www.myrda.org.uk/assets/50-x-25-RDA-Champs-2020-diagram-JUDGE-16.8.19.pdf>
<https://www.myrda.org.uk/assets/DRIVER-60-x-30-RDA-Champs-2020-dressage-diagram-DRIVER-Copy-AUGUST-2019.pdf>

The winner of the Novice class at the National Championships will move up to the Intermediate class and the winner of the Intermediate class at the National Championships will move up to the Open class for future competitions.

The organisers reserve the right to transfer drivers to a different class if felt appropriate.

For full competition rules please see the RDA Rule Book.

The Carriage Driving Dressage Test can be found on
<https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/carriage-driving/>

Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

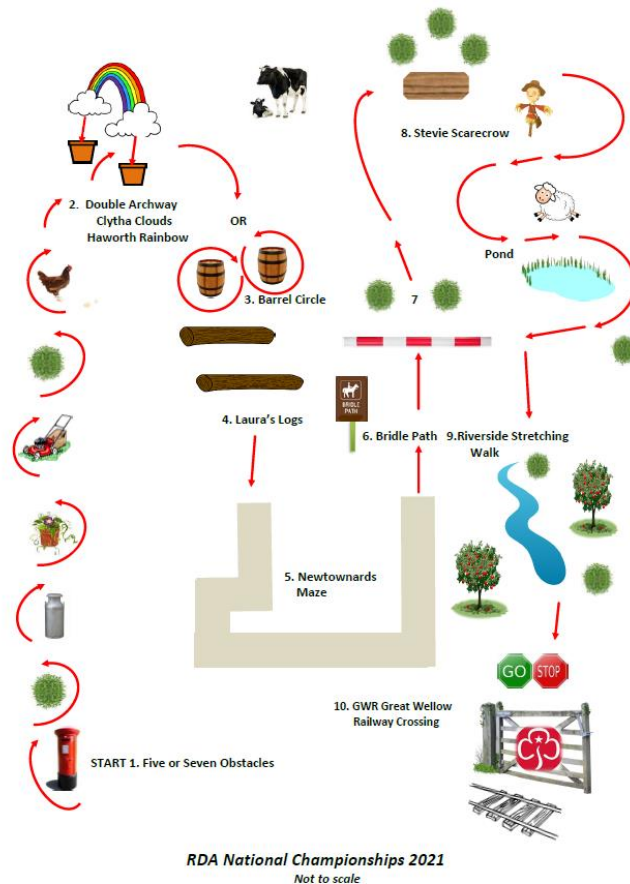
- £12.00

Countryside Challenge

For full competition rules please see the RDA Competition Rule Book. For more information on the course and different equipment that could be used please see the Countryside Challenge section of the National Championships Page on the MYRDA website or click the following link: <https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/national-championships/countryside-challenge/>

For those classes that have a side walker then the COVID-19 RDA rules apply. This is currently that the side walker accompanying the competitor must be from the same household/support bubble. Leaders may be from outside the household or support bubble as long as social distancing is maintained with mitigation. Please be aware that these COVID-19 rules are subject to change.

If entries allow the classes will be split into Junior and Senior.



Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- £12.00

Dressage

Classes are divided in to Junior, Senior and Open. According to entries we may divide the class.

- Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16 who are not an Open Rider.
- Open Riders – Riders who have competed FEI or BD Para Silver or Bronze Championships in the previous 4 years and those that have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships. Competitors who ride within an Accessibility Mark Centre.

Due to the nature of the competition this year entries will be limited and therefore only the winner of each class will qualify. A number of wild cards may be available for the Dressage Lead to allocate so please send a copy of your qualifying scoresheet to RDA National Office by Monday 12th July and the Dressage Lead will issue accordingly.

Competitors may only ride one test this year.

All dressage classes should be held in 20m x 40m arena or on grass. All letters must be clearly visible.

If the test is being commanded then the commander needs to stand at E, if possible according to the RDA Rule Book.

For those classes that have a side walker then the COVID-19 RDA rules apply. This is currently that the side walker accompanying the competitor must be from the same household/support bubble. Leaders may be from outside the household or support bubble as long as social distancing is maintained with mitigation. Please be aware that these COVID-19 rules are subject to change.

For full dressage rules please consult the RDA Rule Book.

Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- £12.00

Endurance

This year endurance will run as a non- competitive event as we cannot compare routes equally to make the timing fair. Endurance is also direct entry to the RDA Virtual National Championships.

All participants will receive a rosette and distance certificate.

All distances ridden can be added to the RDA Endurance League.

To take part in this discipline the group must already be a registered endurance group.

The following distances will be available:

- 1km is a led class
- 2km is a led or unled class Those riders who are unled must be nominated by the Regional or County Coach
- 3km is a led or unled class. Those riders who are unled must be nominated by the Regional or County Coach
- 5km is a unled class and the rider must be nominated by the Regional or County Coach

Mounted escorts are permitted on the course as per the RDA Endurance rules and only 1km and 2km classes are allowed to take place in an arena.

When making the entry you will have the ability to upload several photos/videos these should include:

- 1) A video of carrying out a tack check and trotting the equine up (the rider may already be mounted for this)
- 2) A photo/video of starting out on the route
- 3) A photo of your completed time card (available on Endurance section of Myrda <https://www.myrda.org.uk/assets/Time-card.pdf>) which shows the time taken, distance and the heart rate of the equine at the start and finish of the route
- 4) A photo of your completed route, this can be a screen shot of your route if using a mobile app such as Strava, Equilab etc
- 5) A video during the ride which shows characteristics of the route used e.g. fields, tracks, woodland
- 6) A photo/video finishing the route.

For full Endurance rules please consult the RDA Rule Book.

For those classes that have a side walker then the COVID-19 RDA rules apply. This is currently that the side walker accompanying the competitor must be from the same household/support bubble. Leaders may be from outside the household/ support bubble as long as social distancing is maintained with mitigation.

Please be aware that these COVID-19 rules are subject to change.

When planning the route please make sure you have the correct permissions and a detailed map route and a Risk Assessment is completed.

To record the distance you can download apps such as Strava, Equilab, Gallopica and MapMyRide.

If you are riding outside of an arena it is recommend that riders, leaders and sidewalkers must be wearing appropriate hi-viz clothing.

A special rosette will be awarded for the best route planned.

If competing in the 1k or 2k class and using an arena then please try to make the arena as interesting as possible to replicate an outside route.

Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- £12.00

Musical Ride/Carriage Drive Competition

Each entry should present a drill ride or carriage drive with riders and helpers smartly dressed – for example in their matching group sweatshirts - on suitable ponies/horses. If they wish to use modest fancy dress, for example to dress as soldiers to reflect marching music, then that is also acceptable.

There are two classes for the Drill Ride, one is for those riders who are led, with or without side walkers. The second one is for those riders who ride independently, without leaders or side walkers. (Their coach may stand at the side of the arena in case of an emergency). In both classes, presentations will be marked down if the ride is 'called'.

For those classes that have a side walker then the COVID-19 RDA rules apply. This is currently that the side walker accompanying the competitor must be from the same household/support bubble. Leaders may be from outside the household or support bubble as long as social distancing is maintained with mitigation. Please be aware that these COVID-19 rules are subject to change.

BACKGROUND

Since the inception of this competition, it was planned that Groups should go 'BACK TO BASICS' where the performance of a Musical Ride/Carriage Drive could reflect the coaching of flatwork skills and school movements which are included in most RDA sessions. The competition also invites groups to demonstrate imagination and innovation in their coaching methods which make their RDA sessions so enjoyable for all our participants.

Music has been shown to be a powerful element to improve and energise the performance of both horse and rider or carriage driver and each year the judges look forward to seeing a wider use of music and movements to do just that.

Once again, the judges are most definitely not looking for 'professional' productions.

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. **Participants** - For each ridden entry, in both the led and independently ridden classes, there can be a minimum of 3 riders and a maximum of 8 riders. There can be one or more carriages in the driven class.
2. **Timings** – Each performance should include a short, clear introduction. The introduction should include the title of the ride/drive and the name of the group. Wherever possible, the riders/carriage drivers should introduce themselves in whatever way is considered suitable. The judges are keen to be aware of the participants' abilities and personalities before watching their performance. The introduction can be with or without music. The performance should also include an ending where riders/drivers perform a halt in time with the music ending. Including the introduction, the whole performance must be at least 6 minutes and not exceed 9 minutes.
3. **Ages** - Entries may have mixed age groups.
4. **Health and Safety** - Hats, footwear, tack/harness etc. must conform to all current RDA Health & Safety standards. If skirts etc. are worn trousers/jodhpurs must be worn underneath if saddles are used. Marks will be deducted if any RDA H&S criteria is not met.

All equipment/props and dress used should be risk assessed to ensure that it is safe for use in an RDA riding/carriage driving session. Riders must ride astride unless a side saddle is used.

5. **Music** – The performance can use music of any genre and use more than one piece of music. Vocals are acceptable as long as they are not too distracting. However, please bear in mind that the music needs to be clearly heard by the judges watching so the original recording quality is important.

Choosing music which is suitable for walk (4 beat rhythm), trot (2 beat rhythm) and, where used, canter (3 beat rhythm) will enhance your performance and marks. It needs to have energy, and motivate the riders, drivers and helpers to produce an entertaining performance. Dance and marching type music can work well for drill work.

6. **Choreography** – Try to make the floor patterns as interesting as possible and include imaginative and innovative school movements which can be used to extend those usually used in Group sessions. Ideas can be discussed with your County or Regional Coach who will be pleased to help and advise you.

7. **Filming** – The judges are looking for a production which includes a view of the whole ride and also zooms in for close ups occasionally at appropriate moments.

8. **Scoring** – An example score sheet can be downloaded from the RDA website.

9. **Entries** – Each group may submit multiple entries for each class of the competition. Entries are free for the Regional round of the competition but all production costs are at the expense of the group concerned and need not have been done professionally. Entries for the National round of the competition are £6.00 per rider/driver. Entries cannot be changed or edited between the Regional Judging Round and the National Championships Final Judging.

Each recording must have been produced in 'one take' and not been edited in any way.

All videos must clearly state the class, title of the Ride or Carriage Drive, the name of the group and region.

ALL RIDDEN DRESSAGE TESTS WILL BE IN A 20 X 40 ARENA

THE CARRIAGE DRIVING DRESSAGE TEST WILL BE IN A 60 X 30 ARENA

Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- £6.00 per rider

Showing

Following on from the success of the SEIB Search for a star competition we are delighted to announce that we will be running three RDA Showing classes as part of the RDA National Virtual Championships.

Showing will be direct entry to the Virtual National Championships.

The three classes are as follows:

- Ridden Horses / Ponies Led (Walk & Trot)
- Ridden Horse / Ponies Unled (Walk & Trot)
- Ridden Horses / Ponies Unled (Walk, Trot & Canter)

Classes will be judged on:

- Turnout – cleanliness and condition of equine/tack
- Conformation of the equine with the suitability for the rider/job in mind
- Overall impression

The show should comprise of a short video of the whole horse stood still including legs and body. The rider should then move onto an individual display to include; walk, trot and Canter if applicable and changes of rein. For more details on judging criteria and what is required in an individual show please see the RDA Competitions Rule Book.

For those classes that have a side walker then the COVID-19 RDA rules apply. This is currently that the side walker accompanying the competitor must be from the same household/support bubble. Leaders may be from outside the household/ support bubble as long as social distancing is maintained with mitigation. Please be aware that these COVID-19 rules are subject to change.

Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- £12.00

Showjumping

| RDA Level Showjumping | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| RDA Showjumping | Level 2 | 30 cm |
| | Level 3 | 60 cm |
| | Level 4 | 70 cm Double max height 60 cm |

All showjumping classes are run under RDA rules. Please consult the RDA Rule Book for full details on competition expectations.

Classes are divided in to Junior and Senior.

- Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16 who are not an Open Rider.

Course plans and further information can also be found here:

<https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/showjumping/>

Closing Date for Virtual National Championships

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- £12.00

Vaulting

The competition will be run according to BEV rules for Pre Novice Individuals, Pairs and Teams and will be scored accordingly. The full BEV rules can be found in the BEV rule book on line <http://britishvaulting.org/get-involved/rules/bev-rules/>

Vaulting is direct entry to the Virtual National Championships.

Team Competition

Teams are made up of 6 vaulters, one horse and a lunger. The vaulting team may include up to 2 non-disabled vaulters who must be RDA volunteers.

There are two elements of the competition which will run consecutively and music should be used in all sections.

1. Run in and bow to the judge.
Bow to judge and run out at the end.
2. Freestyle. The freestyle section should include work in singles and pairs but not in threes. Freestyle should be performed in walk. Time allowed for freestyle is 4 minutes (max).

Pairs Competition

This will be run as an open competition with no age restrictions.

- On the barrel, freestyle
- On the horse, freestyle

The Pairs and Team competition will go ahead subject to COVID -19 rules and regulations at the time.

Individual Competition

Individuals will be split into 3 age groups:

- a. 10 years and under
- b. 11 – 16 years
- c. 17 years and over

Classes will be split so that individuals can choose to perform on the barrel or horse. They will not be permitted to do compulsories on the horse then freestyle on the barrel or vice versa. Classes will be as follows:

- On the barrel, pre novice compulsories and freestyle – all ages
- On the horse, pre novice compulsories and freestyle – all ages
- On the horse pre novice canter compulsories and walk freestyle – all ages
- On the horse pre novice canter compulsories and canter freestyle – all ages

If insufficient entries, age groups in classes will be amalgamated.

For full Vaulting rules please see the RDA Rule Book.

Closing Date

- Friday 27th August 2021

Entry Fee

- Team Competition £50.00
- Pairs Online £18.00
- Individual £12.00

Classes

| Class No | Description | Grade | Test |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Carriage Driving | Novice | RDA Carriage Driving Dressage Test |
| 2 | Carriage Driving | Intermediate | RDA Carriage Driving Test |
| 3 | Carriage Driving | Open | RDA Carriage Driving Test |
| 4 | Dressage - Championships | TVI (walk only) | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2020) |
| 5 | Dressage - Championships | PVI (walk only) | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2020) |
| 6 | Dressage - Championships | TVI (walk & trot) | TVI/PVI Championships Test Walk & Trot (2020) |
| 7 | Dressage - Championships | PVI (walk & trot) | TVI/PVI Championships Test Walk & Trot (2020) |
| 8 | Dressage - Championships | TVI (canter) | TVI/PVI Championship Test Canter (2020) |
| 9 | Dressage - Championships | PVI (canter) | TVI/PVI Championship Test Canter (2020) |
| 10 | Dressage - Championships | Grade 1 | Grade 1 Championship Test (2020) |
| 11 | Dressage - Championships | Grade 2 | Grade 2 Championship Test (2020) |
| 12 | Dressage - Championships | Grade 3 | Grade 3 Championship Test (2020) |
| 13 | Dressage - Championships | Grade 4 | Grade 4 Championship Test (2020) |
| 14 | Dressage - Championships | Grade 5 | Grade 5 Championship Test (2020) |
| 15 | Dressage - Championships | 1-6 (walk & trot) | Grade 6 Walk & Trot Championship Test (2020) |
| 16 | Dressage - Championships | 1-6 (canter) | Grade 6 Canter Championship Test (2020) |
| 17 | Dressage - Championships | (I/D) Canter | I/D Canter Championship Test (2020) |
| 18 | Dressage – Championships | Led (walk & trot) | Introduction to Dressage Championship Test Walk & Trot (2020) |
| 19 | Dressage - Championships | 1-6 (walk only) | Grade 6 Walk Only Championship Test (2020) |
| 20 | Dressage - Championships | I/D (walk only) | I/D Walk Only Championship Test (2020) |
| 21 | Dressage - Championships | I/D (walk & trot) | I/D Walk & Trot Championship Test (2020) |
| 22 | Dressage – Championships | Led (walk only) | Introduction to Dressage Championship Test Walk Only (2020) |
| 23 | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior | Led with 1 side walker |
| 24 | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior | Led or 1 side walker |
| 25 | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior | Visually Impaired Led with 1 side walker |

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|----|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 26 | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior | Visually Impaired led or 1 side walker |
| 27 | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior | Independent |
| 28 | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior | Visually Impaired Independent |
| 29 | RDA Showjumping | Level 2 | 30cm |
| 30 | RDA Showjumping | Level 3 | 60cm |
| 31 | RDA Showjumping | Level 4 | 70cm |
| 32 | Showing | Led | Walk & Trot |
| 33 | Showing | Unled | Walk & Trot |
| 34 | Showing | Unled | Walk, Trot & Canter |
| 35 | Endurance | Led | 1km |
| 36 | Endurance | Led or Unled | 2km |
| 37 | Endurance | Led or Unled | 3km |
| 38 | Endurance | Unled with mounted escort | 5km |
| 39 | Vaulting - Individual | 10 years & under 11 – 16 years 17 years & over | Walk Compulsories/Walk Freestyle |
| 40 | Vaulting - Individual | 10 years & under 11 – 16 years 17 years & over | Canter Compulsories/Walk Freestyle |
| 41 | Vaulting - Individual | 10 years & under 11 – 16 years 17 years & over | Canter Compulsories/Canter Freestyle |
| 42 | Vaulting - Pairs | All Ages | Walk |
| 43 | Vaulting - Barrel | Team | |
| 44 | Vaulting - Barrel | Individual | All Ages |
| 45 | Arts & Crafts - Paintings & Drawings | Junior/Senior | Individual |
| 46 | Arts & Crafts - Collage | Junior/Senior | Individual |
| 47 | Arts & Crafts - Collage | Junior/Senior | Group |
| 48 | Arts & Crafts - Sculpture | Junior/Senior | Individual |
| 49 | Arts & Crafts - Sculpture | Junior/Senior | Group |
| 50 | Arts & Crafts - Photographic | Junior/Senior | Individual |
| 51 | Arts & Crafts – Special Class | Junior/Senior | Individual &/or Group |
| 52 | Musical Drill Ride | Led | With or without side walker(s) |
| 53 | Musical Drill Ride | Unled | Independent |
| 54 | Musical Drill Drive | Drive | |

Rules and Regulations

- Each recording must have been produced in 'one take' and not been edited in any way. Sound must be on at all times.
- All videos must state clearly the class, rider's names, group name, date video was taken and that it is for the Virtual National Championships.
- Tack and Saddlery equipment must be correct and in accordance to the RDA Rule Book.
- Riders must wear normal competition dress as per the RDA Rule Book.
- For those classes that have a leader or side walker then correct clothing and footwear must be worn.
- For those classes that have a side walker then the COVID-19 RDA rules apply. This is currently that the side walker accompanying the competitor must be from the same household/support bubble. Leaders may be from outside the household/support bubble as long as social distancing is maintained with mitigation. Please be aware that these COVID-19 rules are subject to change.
- Groups should undertake a COVID-19 risk assessment for activities needed in order to compete in the Virtual National Championships.
- Each group should maintain a list of their participants, coaches and grooms that were attending on the day of videoing for the Virtual National Championships. Including approximate time of arrival and departure. This should also include whether any individuals have made closer contact than social distancing would normally allow (<1m even with a face covering) as these individuals will be classed as a contact for Track and Trace purposes. These records should be kept for 21 days.
- Competitors must be medically fit for the activities they undertake. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that they are medically fit to compete. Where necessary their parents/guardians must take this responsibility. The organisers reserve the right to require any competitor to withdraw.
- **All horses competing in the Virtual National Championships should:**
- Have received a primary course of two injections against equine influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart.
- Only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete.
- In addition, a FIRST booster injection must be given no less than 150 days and no more than 215 days after the second injection of the primary course.
- Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year apart, commencing after the first booster injection.
- None of these injections can be given within the seven days before the day of competing.
- The use of any herbal, natural or chemical product to affect the performance of a horse or pony in a calming (tranquillising) manner is strictly forbidden under RDA rules. The use of such products during competition has important safety and welfare consequences. The RDA does make certain, specific exceptions to the FEI's list of controlled and banned substances with respect to the population of horses engaging in RDA activities. Some of these medications need to be declared before National Championships in order to be permitted.
- You will need to fill in a National Championships Medication Declaration Form which is available on the equine section of the MyRDA website:

<https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/horses-and-rda/> this then needs to be sent to the Championships Secretary before the event begins.

- Horse should have update to date passport and been microchipped.
- Horses and ponies must be five years old or over.
- Any height of horse or pony is allowed in any class.
- In line with standard RDA policy, stallions must not be used in any RDA competitions.
- Bitless bridles are not permitted in any discipline.
- Each horse may only be videoed a maximum of five ridden classes including lead rein on one day. These must not comprise of more than four in any one discipline.
- Before entering the National Championships please ensure that you consult the RDA weight chart to ensure that your horse/rider combination is suitable. We will be monitoring this at the Virtual Championships.

RDA has created an excel calculator to help groups work out the maximum carrying weight a horse can carry. Please visit MYRDA website and click on the Equines in RDA and click on the health and welfare page.

<https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/horses-and-rda/health-welfare/>

RDA reserves the right to check any rider/horse combination considered not to comply with the limits set out on the weight chart on RDA's website.

If a combination is found to be outside the parameters action may be taken.

- An approved hat must be worn at all times when mounted and must comply with the current RDA Health and Safety policy including any temporary standards.
- If body protectors are worn they must comply with the current standards which are: BETA 2009 (purple/white label) and 2018 (blue/black label) Level 3 Body Protector Standard meets all the requirements of the respective European standard (EN 13158).
- For graded Dressage classes please ensure proof of classification is attached to your entry when entering.