

## CHAPTER 5 THE COMPETITION: GENERAL GUIDANCE AND RULES OF PARTICIPATION

This Chapter 5 identifies key requirements and obligations for Competitors participating in an Event. Chapter 6 sets out the rules relating to each individual phase. Rule 3.8 sets out the sanctions for non-compliance.

- 5.1 Eligibility and Fitness.** Competitors must ensure that both they and the Horse they ride:
- Are eligible, and competent, to compete appropriately in the class which they have entered; and
  - Are fit enough to do so.
- 5.2 Safety.** Competitors must ensure their Horses are managed properly and safely throughout an event.
- 5.3 Officials,** many of whom are volunteers, are appointed to help the Event Organiser provide sport for the Competitors. Competitors must cooperate with them and comply with any reasonable order or direction given by an Official. Incivility or rudeness to an Official is a breach of the Rules and the Code of Conduct.
- 5.4 Reputation of the Sport.** Members must not act in a manner which is prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct or good reputation of BE events or BE itself. Members should have this in mind at all times, including when using social media (see Rule 11.8).
- 5.5 Horse Welfare – Abuse of Horse.** Competitors must never ill-treat or abuse a Horse in any way whatsoever. The following are some examples of contact which can constitute abuse:
- **Use of the whip**  
The use of a whip must be:
    - For a good reason, as an aid to encourage the Horse forward or as a reprimand. Use of the whip to vent a Competitor’s anger is excessive.
    - At an appropriate time, namely when the Horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs or as a reprimand immediately after a Horse has been disobedient. Use after elimination is always excessive.
    - In the right place, namely down the shoulder or behind the leg but never overarm. Use on a Horse’s head, neck etc. is always excessive.
    - With appropriate severity. As a reprimand only. However; it should never be hit more than three times for any one incident. Use of a whip which causes injury, e.g. broken skin or a weal, is always excessive.
  - **Spurs.**
    - The use of spurs to reprimand a Horse is always abuse.
    - The use of a spur resulting in injury to a Horse is always excessive.
  - **The Bit.**
    - Use of the bit to reprimand a Horse is always abuse.
  - **Tired Horse.**
    - Riding an exhausted, lame or injured Horse or excessive pressing of a tired Horse constitutes abuse.
  - **Rapping** is abuse.