

Anyone Can Event (ACE) Rules 2025/2026

ACE is an arena style eventing competition, run at 60, 70, 80, 90, 100 where riders can qualify for the Harry Hall One Club ACE Championships to be held at Aintree Equestrian Centre from 28 – 31 May 2026.

1. Qualifying competitions are to be run at 60cm, 70cm, 80cm, 90cm & 100cm levels.
2. Qualifying competitions are organised and run by the venue, please abide by the venue's rules and guidance when competing there. Competition results (rider name, horse name, results, contact details) will be shared with British Eventing to support Championship qualification validation.
3. The qualifying period will be between 1st October 2025 and mid-May 2026
4. The Qualifiers are open to non-members, but everyone must be a BE member (minimum PAYG member) to be eligible for the Championships. Horses will need a free BE registration.
5. Riders must be 10 years or older. Riders competing in the U18 classes are not to have attained their 18th birthday on or before the date of the Championships.
6. Horses must be 5 years of age and above to compete in all classes.
7. Horses must be at least 132cms in height to compete in 60cm, 70cm, 80cm and 90cm classes and at least 142 cm in height to compete in 100cm classes.
8. Horse eligibility for the Championships
 - a. Any Grade of horse can compete in all ACE Championship classes.
 - b. There is no limit on Foundation Points earned.
 - c. Horse may only be entered into each Championship class once, even if qualified with a different rider.
9. The same horse's name must be used when entering both the Qualifier and Championships (no stable names).
10. Competition Structure & Scoring
 - Competitors will jump a course of 6-8 show jumps immediately followed by 8-10 simulated, knock-down cross country fences including a skinny and corner.
 - There will be no more than 20 jumping efforts.
 - The whole round will be timed.
 - Penalties will be given as per the table below.
 - The winner will be the competitor with the lowest number of penalties.
 - In the event of a tie the winner will be the one closest to the optimum time.
 - Optimum time is calculated based on a speed of 350m per minute.
 - Time allowed is twice the optimum time.
 - Stop watches are not permitted.
 - Judge's decision is final.

Penalties will be awarded as follows for all Qualifiers and Championship classes:

	ACE Penalties
First disobedience	4 penalties
Second disobedience at same fence	8 penalties
Third disobedience	Elimination
Knock down of obstacle	4 penalties
Fall of horse	Elimination
Fall of rider	Elimination
Every commenced second in excess of the optimum time	0.4 penalties
Every commenced second in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time	0.4 penalties
Exceeding time allowed*	Elimination
Error of course	Elimination
Retaking obstacle already jumped	Elimination

11. Qualified combinations will be identified via email following receipt of qualifying competition results from the qualifying venues. Upon receipt of the qualification email from BE, competitors will have 14 days to become a member (minimum PAYG) of BE to retain their qualification. Failure to do this may result in the qualification being passed down the line to the next placed combination that has not already qualified.

12. Qualification is for combinations only. Substitutions will not be possible. If a combination is qualified for all 4 Championships, their Championship entries will be limited to the 2 higher level classes.

13. Qualification is as follows:

For 60cm, 70cm, 80cm & 90cm classes

- below 15 starters in a class > top 4 qualify.
- up to and incl 30 starters in a class > top 6 qualify.
- 31 or more starters in a class > top 8 qualify.

For 100 cm class

- below 15 starters in a class > top 6 qualify.
- up to and incl 30 starters in a class > top 8 qualify.
- 31 or more starters in a class > top 10 qualify.

Important

British Eventing reserve the right to increase the number of qualifying places from ACE Qualifiers.

Where qualifying classes are amalgamated BE will split results between under 18's and seniors and the qualification criteria applied as two classes. This will only be possible when qualifiers advise BE of the riders age category (S/U18).

British Eventing does not check rider eligibility at the time of qualification. Riders and/or their agents are responsible for checking their eligibility for the Championships.



14. Competition results (rider name, horse name, position, penalties, competition class and date) and competitor contact details will be shared with British Eventing to support championship qualification validation.
15. The Championships are run and administered under British Eventing Rules and regulations. Cross country kit including body protectors and protective headwear to current guidelines must be worn. Stop watches are not permitted.
16. When entering the Championships competitors will agree to abide by the BE Rules which include but are not limited to the rules relating to vaccinations, BEFAR and standards of protective dress.
17. If stabling onsite at the Championships you will be required to comply with Aintree vaccination requirements.

Participating venues are listed on the BE website, further venues and dates may be added. Please see the venues schedule page for details on how to enter.