ARENA EVENTING RULES 2026/2027

Arena Eventing is a two-phase competition, run at 80, 90, 100, 100Open* where riders can qualify for the BE Arena Eventing Championships to be held at Aston Le Walls on the weekend of 27th & 28th February 2027.

1. Qualifying competitions are to be run at 80cm, 90cm & 100cm levels. Qualifiers may be held on an arena surface or grass.

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 2026 and 14th February 2027.

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 **free** BE registration.

5. Riders must be in their 12th birth year or older.

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 80cm and 90cm classes and at least 142 cm in height to compete in 100cm classes.

8. Horse eligibility for the Championships
    a. Grade 4 horses (including Downgraded horses) can compete in all AE Championship classes. If the horse has never competed in BE competitions before, the horse is Grade 4 and is eligible for any Championship class.
    b. There is no limit on Foundation Points earned.
    c. BE Graded horses can compete in AE100Open Championships only.
    d. If the horse of a qualified combination is higher than BE Grade 4 (i.e. has earned BE Grading* points at BE Novice or above), it can only enter the AE100Open Championship.
    *BE Grading explained here
    e. Horse may only be entered into each Championship class once, even if qualified with a different rider.

9. Rider eligibility for the Championships
    a. Riders who have completed an Advanced, 3*, 4* or 5* competition prior to time of entry in the current season, or in the two previous seasons, may only take part in the BE100Open class.

10. The same horse's passported name must be used when entering both the Qualifier and Championships (no stable names) unless the horse is unnamed – please state at time of entry.

11. Competition Structure & Scoring
    - Competitors will jump a course of 8-10 show jumps immediately followed by 10-12 cross country fences including a water fence (this may be a water tray) and will finish with the last fence as a show jump, the joker fence. The joker fence will be approximately 10cm higher than the rest of the course and is not optional.
    - 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 will be based on a speed of 375mpm for 100, 360mpm for 90 and 350mpm for 80 as agreed with the course designer depending upon the size and terrain of the arena.
    - Time allowed is twice the optimum time.
    - Stop watches are not permitted.
    - The judge's decision is final.

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

	Show Jumping	**Cross Country**
First disobedience	4 penalties	20 penalties
Second disobedience at same fence	8 penalties	40 penalties
Third disobedience	Elimination	Elimination
Knock down of obstacle	4 penalties	6 penalties
Knock down of Joker fence	6 penalties	N/A
Fall of horse	Elimination	Elimination
Fall of rider	Elimination	Elimination
Every commenced second in excess of the optimum time	0.4 penalties	0.4 penalties
Every commenced second in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time	0.4 penalties	0.4 penalties
Exceeding time limit*	Elimination	Elimination
Error of course	Elimination	Elimination
Retaking obstacle already jumped	Elimination	Elimination

12. 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. Qualifications will not be passed down. British Eventing reserve the right to increase the number of qualifying places from Arena Eventing Qualifiers.

13. Qualification is for combinations only. Substitutions will not be possible. If a combination is qualified for all 3 Championships, their Championship entries will be limited to the 2 higher level classes.

14. Qualification is as follows:

    For 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

Where qualifying classes are split between junior and senior or horse and pony, the results are amalgamated and the qualification criteria applied as a single class.

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.

15. 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.

16. The Championships are run and administered under British Eventing Rules and regulations. Body protectors and protective headwear to current guidelines must be worn. Stop watches are not permitted. Hats will need to be tagged for the Championships with either a BE, PC or RC hat tag for the current season.

17. 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.

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.

***100Open Championships only.**