

# MERCIAN INTER-RIDING CLUB LEAGUE

## RULE BOOK 2026

The 2025 Mercian season is all about having fun and representing your club in a laid back, friendly atmosphere.

Please enter and compete with this in mind.

### AFFILIATED CLUBS

Alvechurch Riding Club (BRC Area 5)	Bewdley Bridle Club (BRC Area 18)
Bromyard Riding Club (BRC Area 18)	Bromsgrove Riding Club (BRC Area 18)
Cheltenham Riding Club (BRC Area 18)	Crothorne and Evesham Vale Riding Club (BRC Area 18)
Hereford & District Riding Club (Area 15)	Frampton Family Riding Club (BRC Area 9)
Ludlow & District Riding Club (Area 18)	Malvern Hills Riding Club (BRC Area 18)
Shropshire South Riding Club (BRC Area 18)	Vale of Arrow Riding Club (BRC Area 15)
Worcester Riding Club (BRC Area 18)	Wyvern Riding Club (BRC Area 18)

### GENERAL RULES: ENTRIES

1. All competitions are open to any member of an Affiliated riding club within the Mercian Inter-Club League. However only a maximum of 2 junior riders are permitted on a team.
2. Riders may ride for more than one club during the Mercian season, but not for different clubs on the same day.
3. Where open classes are run on the same day and a rider has entered the same height/test as their Mercian entry, they must ride their Mercian entry first.
4. Horses must be entered under the name on their passport.
5. All horses must be 4 years or over.
6. A club may enter a maximum of 4 teams at any competition, subject to rule 29.
7. All entries must be made by the closing date of the competition. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organising club.
8. Any changes to teams, riders or horses after an entry has been submitted, must be communicated to the organiser as soon as possible. Changes submitted less than 48 hours before the start of the competition will only be made in cases of unforeseen emergencies, such as horse or rider injury. Any changes on the day are taken at the organisers discretion and must be presented to the secretary at least 30 mins before the start of the class.
9. Unless otherwise stated, all competitions are for teams of four, with the best three scores to count.
10. Individuals from Mercian clubs may be entered into Mercian classes and are eligible for any individual rosettes. No points will be earned towards the Mercian League.
11. If a club is struggling to put together a team, they may join with another Mercian club to enter a mixed team. Points earned will be split equally between the two clubs, irrespective of how many members from each club are on the team.
- 12. All competitions are run under current BRC rules, except where superseded by specific rules below.**

## ELIGIBILITY

13. Eligibility for all competitions are as per the 2026 British Riding Club Handbook.
- For Show Jumping and Dressage Competitions, eligibility as per the BRC National Championship
  - For Arena Eventing/Two Phase/Eventer Challenge Mercian Competitions, eligibility as per the BRC Arena Eventing Championships
  - For Combined Training Mercian Competitions, eligibility as per the BRC Combined Championships
14. Where Mercian competitions hold classes that are not covered by one of these championships (ie. A 50cm jumping class), then eligibility will be as per the lowest height/level that the Championship does cover.
15. It is the responsibility of each club's **Mercian Team Manager** to ensure their riders are competing within the rules.
16. A horse and rider combination competing at Area level cannot compete at a lower level at a Mercian competition, unless they have been downgraded (see rule 18).
- 17. Team managers are asked to make entries in the spirit of the Mercian Group principles.**
18. If a team manager wishes to officially downgrade a member, they must put the case in writing to the Mercian Chair, who will review the case. The case must be presented at least a month before the closing date of the desired competition. The Chair's decision will be final, but can be re-presented the following year on appeal.
19. The minimum penalty for entering non-eligible members is to have the points from that competition deducted from the league. Further penalties may be imposed if the club is found to be constantly breaking the eligibility rules. All penalties are at the discretion of the Mercian committee.

## RUNNING A COMPETITION

20. Any club wishing to run a competition within the league must put forward their proposals at the annual AGM held in the preceding year.
21. ~~Any club proposing to run an event must have competed in at least two events organised by other clubs in the preceding year.~~ *Propose - remove rule 21 as limits competitions in the league*
22. Smaller clubs struggling to run a competition may combine their efforts with another Mercian club and decide between them how any profits will be split.
23. The competition should be inclusive for all RC members, but where space or time is a factor, it must cover a minimum of two levels/heights.
24. The same type of competition may be run by different clubs, as long as the format, judging and/or venue are different.
25. Competitions do not have to be limited to those currently covered by BRC and can include other disciplines (ie. Showing, mounted games, Trec, etc).
26. Organisers may choose to run their competition so that all members of a team compete at the same level or so that all members in the team compete at a different level. The format must be clearly printed on the schedule.
27. Final dates must be confirmed and related to the Mercian Secretary before **April 1st**. Any dates confirmed after this, **MUST** be discussed with the Chair before schedules are finalised to ensure that no dates clash.
28. Where possible, Mercian events should not clash with BRC Area Qualifiers (NB. This effects Area 5, 9, 15 and 18 - the Mercian secretary will keep a list of dates as reference) and BRC Championships.

29. An organising club may restrict the number of teams entered per club if limited by time or space at the venue. However, if spaces subsequently become available, then these must be offered to the clubs already entered on an equal basis.
30. Organising clubs are reminded horse and rider safety must be the over-riding concern at all events. There is no shame in cancelling at the last minute if there are not enough stewards/fence judges etc. If clubs think they may struggle for helpers, they may stipulate that clubs entering must supply one helper per team as a condition of entry and use their discretion for smaller clubs.
31. Rosettes should be awarded to a minimum of 6th place for Team and Individual competitions, but can be awarded lower at the discretion of the organisers. Organisers are asked to provide as many rosettes as they are able to encourage participation by our grassroots riders.
32. Schedules must be sent to the Mercian Secretary at least 1 month before the closing date of entries. Schedules will be distributed to all Team Managers on receipt.
33. A **FULL** copy of the results must be sent to the Mercian Secretary within a week of the competition. These should be a typed, electronic copy, suitable for publishing on social media. Or on a recognised results website such as Riding Club Results or Horse Monkey.

## SCORING

34. **Addition - all events must be scored as per the current BRC Handbook. Organisers wishing to score their events in a different way, must approach the Mercian Committee beforehand.**
35. All team places are calculated using the individual arena placings of the all team members.
36. In each arena or section, the winner earns one point, 2nd place 2 points and so on down the rankings. Every competitor therefore 'earns' a score unless disqualified.
37. The team with the lowest overall score will be declared the winner.
38. Exceptions to the above:
  - ◆ ~~Dressage to Music: This is on teams of 3, competing at any level on the day, and all scores to count. The three percentages are added together and the team with the highest score wins.~~  
**Remove as this can be scored the same way as other events using different tests**
  - ◆ Quiz: The team with the highest score wins. The organisers may run a tie-break round to separate teams on the same score.
38. ODE and Hunter Trials: there should only be a short timed section. This time is only used to decide places in the event of a tie.
39. Showing: in the event of a tie, the team placed highest in the Riding Club class is placed higher.

## SPECIFIC COMPETITION RULES

40. COMBINED TRAINING: This is to be a two phase event, including dressage and show-jumping. Classes may be run as two riders per level in each team (as per BRC) or with all four team members in the same level.
41. DRESSAGE: Any current British Dressage or BRC test may be used.
42. DRESSAGE TO MUSIC: Tests as per current British Dressage Freestyle tests. ~~Teams of three that can be made up of any combination of tests being run in the day, with all three scores to count.~~ Arenas can be 40m x 20m or 60m x 20m at the organiser's discretion.
43. EVENTER CHALLENGE / TWO PHASE / ARENA EVENTING: This will be a two phase event, including show jumping and cross-country. The two phases may run concurrently or riders may be given sepa-

rate times for each phase.

44. **SHOWING:** One member in each team to ride in a different class. Classes must include a Riding Club Horse, where the horse must be in a snaffle bridle and will be expected to jump a single fence). The other three classes can be chosen at the organiser's discretion, but should be as inclusive as possible. All classes should be Ridden. *Amended to reflect rider poll and classes requested.*
45. **SHOW JUMPING:** May be run as single phase or two phase at the organiser's discretion.
46. **QUIZ:** All members of the Quiz team MUST be members of the club. The organising club can choose format, however, it usually consists of approximately 10 rounds and has a least one horse related round.

## POINTS LEAGUE

47. Points are awarded as follows: 1st = 8 points; 2nd = 7 points; 3rd = 6 points; 4th = 5 points; 5th = 4 points; 6th = 3 points. Any unplaced teams that participate = 1 point.
48. While a club may enter as many teams as they like in each class (subject to previous rules), only the two highest placed teams will be awarded 'place' points (ie. for 1st to 6th). Any further teams that are placed for that club in that class will only earn 1 participation point. Place points will then be awarded to the next placed team from a different club.
49. The OVERALL league will be calculated on the 6 best places earned by each club. (for example, a club that wins 6 classes in the year will be placed above a club that wins 5 and comes 2nd in one).
50. In the event of a tie, the 7th best place will be taken into account, then the 8th, and so on down the line until the tie is broken, or one of the clubs involved does not have another score.
51. A separate FLATWORK league will be calculated as per rule 47 to 50, but only covers points that are won during competitions that take place on the flat (ie. Dressage, Showing, etc)
52. A separate JUMPING league will be calculated as per rule 47 to 50, but only covers points won during competitions over jumps (ie Show Jumping, Hunter Trials, etc)
53. A separate COMBINED EVENTS league will be calculated as per rule 47 to 50, but only covers points won during competitions that combine two or more different disciplines (ie. Arena Eventing, Combined Training, One-Day-Event, etc).

## DRESS CODE

54. To promote a relaxed and informal atmosphere, riders can choose to wear jackets OR Riding Club Branded clothing (ie. Polo shirt, XC colours/base layer, sweatshirt, gilet or jacket).
55. Hoodies must not be worn when riding.
56. All hats, boots, breeches and tack as per the current BRC rulebook.

## MERCIAN COMMITTEE 2020

Chair	Julia Tyrrell	07710 201 399	julia.tyrrell55@gmail.com
Secretary	Caroline Bates	07900 376 272	merciansecretary@outlook.com
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**GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!**