

Fernie Team Chase – Administrative Guidelines

THESE MATTERS ARE FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL COMPETITORS AND SPECTATORS AT THE EVENT

In addition to their role in respect of the MFHA Cross Country Team Chase rules, the Stewards will be responsible for ensuring fair play at the event, with the best interests of Team Chasing at heart, and in particular with regard to:

1. **MARKING OF COURSE** - The Novice Class course will be marked by white numbers on a black background, the National Team Chase Championship course will be marked by white numbers on a red background and The UK Hunt Team Chase course will be marked by black numbers on a white background.
2. **WINNING TIME** – In the Open class and The ROR Fernie Intermediate the fastest team to complete the course will win. In the UK Hunt Team Chase, the fastest team to complete the special timed section of the course (to be known as 'The Hunting Zone') will win, so long as that team does not exceed the "Maximum Available Time" for the entire course. In the Novice Class the team nearest the 'bogey' time will win. The 'bogey' time will be determined by the organisers in advance of the event, and will be equivalent to a standard hunting pace around the course in the prevalent conditions. Falls will be penalised by time only. In the event of a dead heat between teams, the time of the fourth horse will count.
3. **DAMAGE TO FENCES** - When damage occurs to a fence, the event will continue at the discretion of the Organisers with that part of the fence damaged marked with white crossed sticks which must not be jumped by the competitors.
4. **DRESS** - Competitors in the Novice, Intermediate and Open Classes must wear standard cross country dress. All teams in the UK Hunt Team Chase will be required to wear either standard Hunt dress or a black, blue or red jersey to match normal hunting attire. Body protectors may be worn either under or over Hunt Dress or Black/Blue/Red Jerseys.
5. **NUMBER CLOTHS** – The deposit for the 4 number cloths (MFHA rule 26) will only be refundable when ALL 4 cloths are returned. These must be worn by all team members in accordance with the colours declared in the event Programme. Failure to do so will incur elimination from the competition.
6. **TEAM CAPTAINS** – It is the Team Captain's responsibility to ensure that each member of the team has read and adheres to all the rules.
7. **EXERCISING OF HORSES** - Horses may only be exercised in the area provided. No competitor may ride on, or over, or near the course or nominated car parking areas, except when actually competing.
8. **CUPS** - All cups must be returned to the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days prior to the following year's event – any damage or loss must be reimbursed at cost of replacement. The holder shall be responsible for insurance of the cup.
9. **DOGS ON LEADS** – All dogs must be kept on leads at all times.
10. **COMPLIANCE WITH OFFICIAL DIRECTIONS** - Riders and owners of competing horses and their grooms must obey any order or direction given to them by a responsible official and in particular they shall not do anything liable to upset or hinder the smooth running of the Event.
11. **PRIZEGIVING** – All competitors are encouraged to attend the prizegiving. The winning teams shall be required to attend photocalls and give interviews to journalists where requested by the organisers.
12. **CAR PASSES** – Admission to the event in any vehicle other than a horsebox will only be permitted where a valid car pass can be displayed to the gateman or on payment of the appropriate admission price. Car passes will be circulated to all officials in advance. In addition each team competing in the Novice Class will be eligible for one £10 car pass on receipt of an s.a.e. by the Hon Secretary. Each Inter Hunt / Intermediate team will be similarly eligible for 2 £10 car passes and each Open team will be eligible for 3 £10 car passes. No further car passes will be available prior to the event, and a team's car pass(es) will not be sent out other than where an s.a.e. is received by the Secretary in sufficient time prior to the event.
13. **OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION** - If help is required with overnight accommodation and/or stabling for team members and their horses (which can be provided locally), please contact the Secretary as early as possible for details of appropriate contacts. The Team Captain shall be held responsible for any unsatisfactory late cancellations of confirmed bookings. All requests must be made before Saturday 23rd March.

The 13th Annual UK Hunt Team Chase, and The ROR Fernie Intermediate

SPECIAL RULES

This class will be run under the MFHA Cross-Country Team Chase Rules, and in accordance with the Administrative Guidelines for the Fernie Team Chase. The following special rules will also apply:

1. Entries will only be accepted for **The UK Hunt Team Chase** from teams of three or four subscribers or hunt servants from one Hunt only, with the name of the Hunt in front of the Team name (eg. Fernie Friendlies, Warwickshire Wobblers, Puckeridge Punters, Tiverton Tigers, Tynedale Thrusters etc). The competition is open to subscribers and hunt servants of all properly recognized packs of hounds in the United Kingdom and Ireland, including any drag or bloodhounds providing they are properly registered with their relevant hunt association.
2. Entries for **The ROR Fernie Intermediate** and **The UK Hunt Team Chase** will be accepted from teams of three or four riders who are sufficiently competent to tackle an Intermediate Team Chase course.
3. **No team in the UK Hunt Team Chase may consist of more than one rider who has previously competed in the National Team Chase Championship during the preceding three years.**
4. Each Hunt may enter as many teams as it wishes. In the event of over-subscription, entries will be limited and it may be necessary to restrict the number of teams per Hunt.
5. Each UK Hunt Team Chase team must have confirmation from a Master of their Hunt that EVERY member of the team is a subscriber to, or Hunt Servant of, the Hunt they are representing and has hunted on at least four occasions with that hunt during the current season, in order to make their entry valid (the signature of the Master is required on the entry form). The organisers reserve the right to seek further clarification if required.
6. Late substitutions will be allowed, but the additional Master's Certificate in respect of any late substitute must be lodged with the Secretary in advance of the competition.
7. Any team completing the UK Hunt Team Chase course in a slower time than the "Maximum Available Time" posted on the day of the event will not be eligible for any prizes within that competition. This time will be calculated on the basis of a slow hunting pace around the entire course in the prevalent conditions.
8. In the UK Hunt Team Chase (only), at least 3 members of every team will be required to pass through a hunting gate which must be opened and properly shut by any one member of that team.
9. In the UK Hunt Team Chase (only) a travel allowance will be returned to competing teams, on return of number cloths to the Secretary's Tent on day of the event, based on £20 per team for those teams from Hunts whose kennels are more than 50 miles away and £30 per team for those Hunts whose kennels are situated over 80 miles from the course. All distances will be measured as the crow flies from the venue of the event to that hunt's kennels. The Organiser's decision on amount of allowance to be paid to a team shall be final.

MFHA CROSS COUNTRY TEAM CHASE RULES

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF RULES** - All Events run under the auspices of the MFHA Governing Body shall be run in accordance with these Rules and shall accept and be bound by these Rules. All competitors at such events shall also accept and be bound by such Rules. Individual events may not impose their own Rules for their event but may impose administrative regulations as they see fit.
2. **RIDERS RESPONSIBILITY** - In the case of any Rule affecting riders or their horses, the rider shall be held responsible. In particular riders will be held responsible for adhering to Rules 7 (Protection), 9 (Age), 13 (Horse Welfare), 14 (Abuse of Horses), 15 (Exchanging Horses) and 20 (Personal Accident Insurance).
3. **STEWARDS** - There shall be one or more Stewards appointed by each event organiser whose decision in respect of these Rules and of Discipline shall be final, except by later appeal to the Governing Body on payment of a deposit of £50. Mounted Stewards will be on the course with authority to stop any competitor continuing on an exhausted horse or ill treating their horse. If they are not obeyed the whole team may be eliminated.
4. **TEAMS** - Each team shall consist of a maximum of four horses and riders and at least three horses and riders shall complete the course successfully for that team to finish
5. **MEDICAL MATTERS** - No event shall commence unless one Doctor, two Paramedics and two Ambulances are on duty on the course. The Organisers should be aware of and adhere to the following medical safety Rules:
 - (a) No team shall be allowed to start unless either a fully equipped Ambulance, or another Ambulance and a Doctor are available on the course (one Ambulance may have gone to hospital with an earlier casualty).
 - (b) The medical team should have radio links around the course to Control.
 - (c) The medical team should be familiar with the course and know the quickest route to any part of it.
 - (d) Scoop stretchers must be available on the course and at least one 4WD vehicle with driver capable of carrying scoop stretchers should be available.
 - (e) The local Accident Unit should be informed of the event and provision for telephone contact be known.
 - (f) Ambulances should not be used as transport for uninjured persons.
6. **CONCUSSION** - Any rider who sustains concussion shall under no circumstances compete again for at least the remainder of that day.
7. **SAFETY & PROTECTION** - With effect from the beginning of Autumn 2012 season it will be compulsory for anyone taking part in an MFHA regulated Team Chase to have a hat that has been checked and complies with the standard required by the MFHA Rules, and is colour-tagged to confirm as such. The implement this change, please note: It is compulsory for all competitors to wear crash helmets to current recognised Safety Standards, and which are identified by a Team Chasing, BE, BRC, BSJA or Pony Club approved Hat Tags ie a hat which meets one of the following standards: British All PAS15, BSEN1384 or European EN1384 provided they are BSI Kitemarked or SEI. American All SEI ASTM 95, ASTM F1163:2004, SNELL E2001. Australian and New Zealand All AS/NZS 3838. Competitors are strongly recommended to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall. All those mounted at an event (including grooms and helpers) must wear a hard hat complying to the above standard when mounted.

All competitors must also wear a British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) approved and appropriately labelled Level 3 body protector manufactured in the year 2000 or after. Competitors are strongly recommended to check their body protectors on a regular basis and replace them if damaged or following a fall and are advised that the body protector should impede neither flexibility nor balance.

All horses being ridden at an event, including riding in exercise areas, must be ridden in a bridle with reins directly attached to a bit or leather 'D' rings or attached as per the manufacturer's specification to a purpose designed bitless bridle (such as a mechanical or jumping hackamore, Dr Cook, Sidepull or Scawbrig).
8. **ACCIDENT REPORT FORMS** - An Accident Report Form is to be given to each fence steward (blank forms available from the MFHA Office) and must be completed for any Accident and returned to the Event Secretary (or Organiser). Such completed forms must be kept by the Organiser for a period of five years, or in the case of a person under the age of 18, four years after they become 18. These forms must be made available to the Course Inspector in subsequent years.
9. **RIDERS AGE** - No person shall ride until they have attained the age of sixteen in any Open, Intermediate or Novice Classes which are run against the clock, and all riders competing in such classes should ensure that they have had appropriate experience of cross country riding. At the discretion of Organisers riders under that age may be permitted to compete in classes judged against the "bogey" time.
10. **VETERINARY MATTERS AND PAYMENT FOR SERVICES** - There must be at least two Vets available on course at each event. The decision of the course Vet to put a horse down on humane grounds must be accepted by all competitors. Competitors will be expected to pay for any services received from the veterinary surgeon, farrier, horse ambulance, doctor or any other medical services
11. **HORSE CASUALTIES** - Organisers shall make adequate arrangements to deal with horse casualties, which will include the provision of suitable screens, a humane killer, at least one knacker wagon, and a suitable vehicle for use as a Horse Ambulance towed by a 4WD vehicle.
12. **EXHAUSTED HORSES** - A nominated Steward or Stewards, who must be mounted, shall be appointed to stop unfit or exhausted horses from continuing. Such an official or officials, who must be readily identifiable, shall be appointed at every event.
13. **HORSE WELFARE** - The whip should only be used for good reason, not excessively, in the right place and at the appropriate time. Spurs must not be used to reprimand a horse and a bit should never be used to abuse or reprimand a horse. Horses competing in Intermediate and Open Classes must be five years old or over.
14. **ABUSE OF HORSES** - Any act or series of actions, which in the opinion of the Stewards constitutes abuse of a horse shall be considered to be a breach of these Rules and will incur elimination.
15. **EXCHANGING HORSES** - No rider may exchange horses once a team has started. No horse may start more than once in any class.
16. **FALLS - ELIMINATION**
 - (a) Horse Falls - When a horse falls during any class, the competitor is immediately eliminated and must retire. If the competitor does continue on the course following a horse fall their team will be eliminated. A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground, or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself. This does not prevent horses which stumble or refuse, thus unseating the rider, from being remounted to continue, subject to rule 16 (b).
 - (b) Rider Falls - After two falls which are not Horse Falls the competitor is immediately eliminated and must retire. If the competitor does continue on the course following two Rider Falls their team will be eliminated
17. **REFUSALS** - The number of refusals shall not exceed three at any one fence, or five on the course per horse, when the competitor shall be eliminated and must leave the course at once. The Team will be disqualified for an abuse of these rules by any individual member.
18. **COURSE INSPECTION** - All courses will be inspected prior to an event by an Inspector appointed by the Governing Body, who will need to be satisfied that the course meets the necessary Rules, safety standards and Course Construction Guidelines before he permits the event to go ahead. Organisers must ensure that they permit Course Inspectors early access to allow time for making any alterations required. The appointed Course Inspector should contact the Course Organisers to arrange an inspection date.
19. **UNAFFILIATED EVENTS** - No rider may compete in the Team Chase Championship, who has taken part in an unaffiliated cross country team event during the current season. Events sanctioned by the Governing Body, the British Horse Society, the Riding Clubs and the Pony Club are exempt from this Rule.

20. **INSURANCE** - All events shall ensure that public liability insurance cover for at least £5m is in place.

Personal Accident Insurance: The following wording MUST BE printed on all entry forms:

It is a requirement that all participants carry Third Party insurance for not less than £5m. It is also strongly recommended that all participants have Personal Accident Insurance.

N.B. If your Hunt is insured through The Hunting Office Block Liability Policy for at least £5m, then this will cover all events run by the Hunt and the Hunt Supporters Club. Third Party Insurance is covered by membership of the Countryside Alliance. It may also come with some horse insurance and house insurance, but this should be checked.

21. **ORGANISER'S RIGHTS** - The Organiser of all events reserves the right to cancel any class or event, to transfer competitors between classes, to refuse any entry, to alter advertised times, to withhold all or any prize money, and to eliminate any competitor to be adjudged not to be adhering to the Rules or who is deemed to be wearing or using inappropriate dress, saddlery and/or equipment.

22. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY** - Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of Organisers for which they are legally responsible, neither the Organisers of any event to which these Rules apply, nor any representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any accident, loss damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, land, vehicles, contents or accessories or any other person whatever, whether caused by their negligence or in any other way.

23. **CLASSES** - Only the following terms shall be used to define classes:

a) Novice. Fixed obstacles which are not to exceed 3'3". Length of course to be approximately 1.5 miles.

b) Intermediate. The majority of fixed obstacles to be approximately 3'6", but not to exceed 3'9". Length of course to be approximately 1.75 miles.

c) Open. The majority of fixed obstacles to be not less than 3'6". Length of course to be approximately 2 miles, and not less than 1.5 miles.

Organisers should also note:

i) If the term "Allcomers" is used, it must be preceded by the word "Novice", "Intermediate" or "Open", whichever best describes the course.

ii) Only "Open" or "Open Allcomers" classes may be considered as qualifiers for the Team Chase Championship.

iii) Events that have an Open Qualifier must run their Intermediate class against the clock (but can run part of the class against a Bogey Time).

iv) A "Fun" class is held entirely at the Organisers discretion, but must be decided by a "bogey" time.

24. **THE PEN** - The first three horses entering the pen should have twelve feet on the floor before anyone jumps out. The penalty for failing to observe this rule to be the addition of 20 seconds per team. There should be at least one fence judge purely to watch for this.

25. **ELIMINATION ON COURSE** - If at least 3 members of the team have not completed the course within 8 minutes of the team starting, the team will be eliminated.

26. **DEPOSIT FOR NUMBER BIBS** - A refundable deposit of £10 per team shall be payable to the secretary for number bibs.

27. **COMPLAINTS AND OBJECTIONS** - Any complaint or objection in relation to an alleged breach of these rules shall be lodged with the event secretary within 10 minutes of the last horse completing the class in which the alleged breach occurred together with payment of a deposit of £40 which will be refunded if the complaint or objection is upheld. The stewards shall use their best endeavours to investigate and hold an enquiry into the complaint or objection within a reasonable time.

28. **REPORT TO COLLECTING RING** - All teams must report to the collecting ring steward at a reasonable time before their running order.

29. **JUMPING ORDER** - Competitors must jump the fences in numerical order and leave red fags on their right and white flags on their left. Any competitor who misses a fence must either return and jump that fence and subsequent fences in the correct order or shall be eliminated and must retire from the course.