



BHA Equine Welfare

Recently players from around the UK were assessed for their riding with a view to taking part in an exam and were all given this presentation as part of the assessment, however EVERYONE needs to understand the importance of how we treat our horses. The aim of improving the riding standards in Horseball are to ensure that we:

Give sympathetic, correct and appropriate aids to the horse for the manoeuvres required in Horseball during play.

Produce fit for purpose and well maintained horses to play Horseball.

Demonstrate to outsiders that our sport cares about the horses we ride.

To ensure that Horseball coaches have:

The knowledge required to manage a group of riders safely within a coaching and competition environment.

Sufficient understanding of riding methods and the horses way of going to adapt coaching plans and exercises to participants needs.



Standards:

Novice and Junior Riders: A rider who should maintain balance on a sensible horse in all paces and without stirrups in walk and trot without interfering with its way of going and who should give the correct aids for basic schooling at pre novice dressage level. For Horseball this rider should be able to manoeuvre a horse safely around the pitch in a novice game without causing danger to other horses or harm to their own horse. They should be able to provide correct basic Horse care to their horse with supervisory advice available.

Div 2 Rider: A rider who should maintain balance without stirrups on the horse in all paces who should understand how the horse should work and who should maintain a correct way of working on a well schooled horse. They should be able to perform Prelim to Novice dressage test. For Horseball they should be able to correctly and safely direct their horses through manoeuvres at an increased speed in a second division Horseball game without causing the horse undue stress or strain. They should be able to provide correct unsupervised horse-care and will know when to seek veterinary advice.

Div 1 Rider: A rider who should maintain balance without stirrups on the horse in all paces who should understand how the horse should work and **should be able to teach** horses the correct way of working showing an improvement **both on and off the pitch**. They should be able to perform Prelim to Elementary dressage tests. For Horseball they should be able to correctly and safely direct their horses through manoeuvres at an increased speed in a first division Horseball game without causing the horse undue stress or strain. They should be able to provide and advise correct horse-care and minor ailments and will know when to seek veterinary advice.



The Aims of the Horse Care Standards

- To ensure that when we produce a horse for Horseball it is never to the detriment of the horse.
- To ensure that our horses are fit enough in limb, wind and body to perform without undue stress over a two day Horseball competition.
- For Level 2 + coaches (who are potentially in a mentor position) to provide correct knowledge to learners
- To set an example of good horse care to our members and to the rest of the equestrian world

Correct Horse Care means a horse who looks happy, healthy and full of life, before, during and after Horseball



X

Horses must be carrying sufficient weight and condition to play in Horseball match and be free of injury or ailment.

Horses should not be left after work in a stable or field covered in dried sweat and sand without hay, water or in dirty stables with untreated injuries.



✓

A Horse healthy in lungs, heart and limb who is kept clean and housed in good conditions will perform well and be less liable to illness or lameness.



The Aims of improved Riding Standards;

That when we perform Horseball manoeuvres on the pitch, we are able to support the horse to perform the necessary moves, turns and transitions required of it without causing stress or undue strain.

That by developing their own equestrian technical knowledge, a Horseball coach is competent, safe and fluent in school craft and can adequately manage coaching sessions, ensuring that the horses in use are being ridden correctly and appropriately.

How can I get help to improve?

1. There is no point in having lessons if you are not going to practice regularly in between
2. Every rider in any discipline (even Olympic riders) needs regular advice and tuition. Any instructor you use should be able to get on your horse and show some improvement and explain how you can improve with your horse.
3. You should provide your instructor with a video of Horseball if possible and a copy of the Horseball book.
4. Winter and gaps in the competition diary are perfect times to have regular lessons and improve your riding.
1. Ask friends and colleagues to recommend local instructors
2. Check local equestrian centres and riding clubs or ABRS/BHS web sites
3. Many instructors advertise in local equestrian magazines
4. Check the coaching experience, qualifications, riding experience and competitive history of an unknown instructor
5. You might need to try different instructors before you find someone who makes sense to you.
6. Recognise that whoever you are-you always need to improve, especially if you coach others.
7. Open your mind to wanting to improve.