

**BHA Rules of Competition 2019** – All FIHB rules detailed at <http://www.fihb.net/> plus those listed below:

## 1. Team Entry (including number of horses):

- Pro-elite 1<sup>st</sup> Division:
  - A team entry consists of at least 5 individual entries and therefore each team must present at registration trot up a minimum of 5 horses & 4 players.
  - A maximum of 6 players/horses can be used per team each day. 8 per league weekend.
  - Open Division.
- Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Division:
  - A team entry consists of at least 5 individual entries and therefore each team must present at registration trot up a minimum of 5 horses & 4 players.
  - A maximum of 6 players/horses can be used per team each day. 8 per league weekend.
  - Closed Division.
- Division 2 & Division 3:
  - A team entry consists of at least 4 individual entries and therefore each team must present at registration trot up a minimum of 4 horses & 4 players.
  - A maximum of 6 players/horses can be used per team each day. 8 per league weekend.
  - Open Division.
- U16 Division:
  - Please see separate U16 Format 2019 document.

\* Other Junior Divisions are at the discretion of the event organisers and BHA Committee and entry stipulations will be made clear via email with weekend entry forms before each event.

Failure to adhere will result in teams being unable to compete at the weekend and hence forfeit of points, unless a horse and rider can be borrowed from another team/club. (See rule 2).

After the first vetting the rule as to number of players needed on the pitch will follow in line with FIHB rules (minimum of 3) however this is at the discretion of the veterinary inspectors to decide if the team's horses have the level of fitness/condition to play as a team of 3. In the case of a team of 3 the referee must call additional compulsory time outs. All horses entered as part of the team, subject to passing vetting, must be on the side of the pitch tacked up and fit to play.

- All teams/players must send a Registration Form to [gbhorseballevents@hotmail.com](mailto:gbhorseballevents@hotmail.com) by **1<sup>st</sup> March**.
- Team entries must be submitted by the Team Leader or Coach of a Team; no later than the entry deadline and once the entry form has been submitted this will be classed as a definitive entry and a failure to present the team will result in a forfeit of points. Missing the entry deadline may also result in sanctions for the team(s) concerned.

## 2. Player swapping during the season:

### 2.1 Same division movement

- Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Division 2, Division 3 & U16:  
Changes between teams will be allowed in certain circumstances such as:
  - Injuries
  - New players
  - Matches likely to be cancelled due to no other option
  - Individual players requiring a team to play for

ALL requests must be approved by the Event Organisers who will then inform and discuss with the committee where necessary.

### 2.2 Changing division:

- Moving up a division is allowed subject to the Welfare officer's discretion that the player has the ability to compete safely.
- First Division players playing in Second Division
  - One 1st Division player (someone whom has played consistently in 1st Division in the previous two seasons.) is permissible per 2nd Division team. This player must be declared to the events team.  
**Abuse of this rule will be monitored.**

2.3 In the interest of continuity, safety and fair play, every effort should be made that players stay within the same team and club for the entire season.

2.4 The Open Championship and non-league events are separate competitions and players are free to play for a different team to their usual league team.

### 2.5 Players who qualify for two categories

The player must continue to play in their primary category\*; then they are free to also play in a second category.

\* providing their Primary Category is due to run.

- This is currently only applicable to Ladies to Pro-Elite and U16 to Seniors.

## 3 Refereeing:

- 3.1 A log book will be situated at the chair to log issues raised by chair or mounted ref that can be addressed at the captains/trainers meeting.

#### **4 Complaints or Dispute procedure:**

Please see separate document for complaints procedure.

#### **5 Membership and Entry fee:**

- 5.1 On joining as a BHA member you are agreeing to the BHA Code of Conduct (this can be found on the website)  
5.2 Members must fill out a membership form.  
5.3 Any member bringing family/friends to events should encourage them to hold supporter membership.  
5.4 Anyone staying overnight at an event must hold at least a supporter membership.  
5.5 Weekend player membership is limited to one weekend per season.  
5.6 Players that play for two teams on different horses must pay for both entries.  
5.7 Only BHA members will be allowed in the arena during matches.

#### **6 Safety:**

- 6.1 Horse behaviour - it is at the referees discretion to remove any dangerous horses from play, see separate Horse behaviour details.  
6.2 Hair below the collar line must be tied up and fastened.  
6.3 Those in the arena must be over 15 and in suitable equestrian attire for safely handling horses. It is the responsibility of the club trainer to ensure this is met.  
6.4 Borrowed horses should be identified to the veterinary inspectors. They will horse & rider will be assessed to ensure it is safe to compete in the division they wish to enter.  
6.5 i. The BHA supports the BHS recommendations on safety while mounted and handling horses. Anyone failing to comply with BHS standards does so at their own risk.  
ii. The BHA supports the BHS riding hat recommendations and has issued a Riding Hat Policy on the BHA website. Further information can be found on the BHS website <http://www.bhs.org.uk/helping-horses-and-riders/free-leaflets>  
6.6 The BHA reserves the right to refuse any player they suspect may be under the influence of any intoxicating substance.  
6.7 All members are encouraged to hold their own insurance cover.

#### **7 Trainers:**

- 7.1 From 2017 all Clubs participating in BHA events must have at least one fully Qualified BHA approved coach.  
7.2 To gain BHA approved trainer status, the following must be held and up to date:
  - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
  - First Aid course (either 3 day at work or BHS approved 2 day)
  - BHS approved Safeguarding course
  - BHA coaching course
  - BHA membership  
7.3 Those training on the side of the pitch should be registered as a trainer/coach with the BHA.  
7.4 It is the responsibility of the person to register their trainer status with the BHA.  
7.5 Those not registered are self liable and the BHA will take no responsibility for any coaching/training they provide.

#### **8 Miscellaneous:**

- 8.1 Official and non-official invites must be logged with the BHA for insurance purposes but also to review those advertising playing Horseball under the GB flag or BHA club name.  
8.2 All payments from the BHA account to be reviewed by the committee.

#### **9 International:**

- 9.1 Players involved in with Team GB will be informed of any additional rules and responsibilities that apply to them

#### **10 Juniors:**

- 9.1 Junior League categories (See FIHB rules for Pony sizes)
  - Poussins- max age reached in calendar year 10. Pony size A and B.
  - Minimes- max age reached in calendar year 14, Pony size B, C and D.
  - Cadets- max age reached in calendar year 16, Pony size C and D.  
9.2 Each weekend is classed as a separate tournament with points earned towards a league trophy.  
9.3 Rosettes awarded each weekend according to placing.  
9.4 Players are allowed to play one category up at the discretion of the referee, organiser, horse welfare designated person and junior development officer. Safety will be the paramount consideration in any decision made. In the event that a category cannot be run safely arrangements will be made allowing all players to complete where possible. This may involve players from a higher category 'supporting' a non competitive match with the lower category.

**Any Rules not mentioned here are covered in the latest version of the FIHB Rules <http://www.fihb.net/>**

**Any forms mentioned will be available on the BHA website <http://www.BritishHorseball.co.uk/>**

**Trainers are responsible to ensure that their team players are aware of all of the game rules.**

## **11 Trophies, Awards & Prizes**

10.1 The following league awards will be handed out at the end of year ceremony:

- Pro Elite – Top Scorer, Best Horse & Rider Combination.
- Ladies – Top Scorer, Best Horse & Rider Combination.
- Division 2 – Top Scorer, Best Horse & Rider Combination.
- Division 3 – Top Scorer, Best Horse & Rider Combination.
- Combined (all divisions) – Players' Player, Most Improved Player.

Rosettes for all teams across all Senior divisions.

10.2 The Junior awards will be handed out at the end of the season (date TBA):

- Team
  - Cadet – League Winner Rosettes & Cup.
  - Minimes & Poussins – TBA at the end of season.
- Individual
  - Most improved U16, Top Scorer U16, Best Horse & Rider Combination U16.
  - Most improved U21, Top Scorer U21, Best Horse & Rider Combination U21.
  - Most improved U14, Top Scorer U14, Best Horse & Rider Combination U14.

10.3 Awards for The Open will be handed out at the end of the event.