



The Side Saddle Association[®]

2025/26 Virtual Equitation

The Rules!

Any on-line competition relies on people being honest!

Please don't enter classes that you are not eligible for as frankly it's just not fair!

We also ask you not to use social media to 'name and shame' If you think someone is competing in lower level classes when they shouldn't be, please don't post your concerns on Social Media but email the Just So team with your concern and we will investigate and act appropriately.

Lecture over! Here are the rules for The Side Saddle Association Virtual Equitation competitions. Please read them carefully and if you are unsure about anything just email us at just-soequestrianevents@hotmail.com

The Rules

1. Let's start by saying the Judge's decisions are final !!
2. **You must be a current member of The Side Saddle Association, or Associate Member if entering the Riding School classes, to enter.**
3. **Tests used will be the 2025 (Oct-Dec) & 2026 (Jan-Mar) National Show Championship tests with the exception of classes 4a/4b/5c/5d/5e/5f which will use the 2024 SSA Virtual Equitation Short Arena Tests.** All tests will be ridden and judged under the rules of The Side Saddle Association. Each competitor will be posted their score sheets and rosettes (if applicable) once all entries have been judged.
4. **Equitation qualifying points will NOT be awarded** in the Virtual Equitation competitions, however **placings will count towards the SSA Performance Awards APART FROM CLASS 6, WALK & TROT EQUITATION**
5. Videos of tests must not have been recorded at any official non-virtual competition. Any video which is suspected of having been filmed during a non-virtual competition will not be accepted.
6. **Your video MUST be verbally introduced by your camera person – rider and horse name, test being ridden and month you are entering. Failure to do this could result in your entry being judged HC!**

7. The person operating the video camera must stand outside of the arena behind the 'C' marker so the rider enters the arena at 'A' riding towards the camera (judge). **PLEASE FILM IN LANDSCAPE VIEW.** Arena letters must be clearly visible at all times during the recording.

8. Commanders/callers may be used but any external verbal instruction given other than the test movements will result in elimination.

9. **Sound must be recorded** to ensure competitors are not receiving coaching during their test

10. **Guidance on riding and videoing your test can be found on the Just So Equestrian Events website** - www.justsoequestrianevents.co.uk/product-category/ssa-virtual-equitation-march-2023

11. Videos must be uploaded and saved to You Tube. **Please ensure the link to your video is entered on the on-line entry form. Please test the link to ensure it is clicking through to your test and working properly!**

12. It is the responsibility of the competitors to ensure that all persons appearing in the video have given their permission to be filmed.

13. If any competitor or person featured in the video is under the age of 16 years the consent of the parent/guardian must be obtained prior to the video being submitted.

14. If the quality of a video is considered too poor to be judged, the competitors will be given the opportunity to submit a further video without charge.

15. **Entries open on the 1st of every month and close at midnight on the last day of the month.** Any entry received after the closing date will be entered for the following month's competition..

16. **Competitors may enter more than one class provided they are eligible – eg: Intermediate & Open provided rider is eligible to compete at Intermediate level – or enter the same class twice, BUT only your highest score will count towards the Series Points Championship**

17. **Competitors may enter and ride a max of two different horses in a class under separate entries BUT only your highest score will count towards the Series Points Championship**

18. Entering for The Side Saddle Association Virtual Equitation competitions constitutes acceptance of the rules of the competition.

19. **Your video will be shared with our appointed judges.**

20. The Side Saddle Association reserves the right to refuse an entry without stating a reason.

21. Rosettes will be awarded up to and including 6th place in all classes and posted to competitors. All other score sheets outside of placings will be scanned and emailed to competitors

22. **The class winners video may be uploaded to the Just So Equestrian Events You Tube page and used on our Facebook page unless the competitor specifies otherwise. The SSA may ask for your permission to use your video for judge training.**

23. **Entry fees** will not be refunded once an entry has been submitted.

24. **Riders do not have to wear full side saddle turnout but must be smartly dressed. BSI standard hats are strongly advised.**

25. **Turnout will not be judged** however costume (period or fancy dress) may not be worn as the judge needs to see the rider's position clearly to enable full and constructive feedback. **The only exception to this is the December show when 'festive' attire may be worn.** Please note the riders left leg and position must still be clearly visible to the judge

26. **The safety of the horse and rider is paramount at all times.** BSI standard hats are strongly advised and **gloves and suitable footwear with a heel must be worn for safety reasons.** Back protectors, air jackets and soft shell air jackets in any conservative, muted

tone are permitted. **No sleeveless top, shorts or trainers are to be worn under any circumstances.**

27. Riders may use snaffle, double or Pelham bridles.

28. Nosebands must be worn in all tests – drop, cavesson, grackle or flash with a snaffle or a cavesson with a double bridle/Pelham bridle..

29. Martingales, side, running or elasticised reins may not be used.

30. Neck straps or balancing straps (a loop on the front of the saddle) may be used at all levels in The Side Saddle Association tests. Correctly fitted cruppers may also be worn

31. No exercise fleeces or sheets to be worn

32. Errors.

- If a competitor make an error of course, i.e. takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc. 2 marks will be deducted and if not re-ridden immediately there will be no mark for that movement.
- Salutes should be made with **reins and whip in the LEFT** hand and the free hand lowered to the rider's side and the rider should acknowledge the judge (even though they are watching you virtually!).Failure to salute as directed in a test will incur a penalty for the error.
- **If 3 errors are made the competitor will be eliminated.**