

British Team Chasing (BTC) Regulations

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Table of Contents

1. **Introduction**
 - 1.1 Mission Statement
 - 1.2 Scope of Regulations
 - 1.3 Governance Structure
2. **Membership**
3. **Competitions**
 - 3.1 Event Organisation
 - 3.2 Rules of Competition
 - 3.3 Horse Welfare
 - 3.4 Safety Guidelines
4. **Code of Conduct**
5. **Disciplinary Procedures**
6. **Amendments to the Rules**
 - 6.1 Proposing Amendments
 - 6.2 Approval Process

1. Introduction

1.1 Mission and Objectives

British Team Chasing's role is to promote and organise team chasing events, fostering sportsmanship, horsemanship, and camaraderie within the equestrian community.

1.2 Scope of Regulations

These regulations set out the responsibilities and duties required to run a BTC Affiliated Event.

1.3 Governance Structure

BTC operates under a governance structure consisting of Full Members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee as set out in the BTC Constitution.

2. Membership

All Organisers must be Members of BTC in order to run BTC affiliated events. Please refer to the BTC Membership Policy document.

3. Competitions

3.1 Event Organisation

BTC Affiliated events must adhere to these regulations and the guidelines as detailed in the BTC Event Administration Guidelines document and the BTC Course Construction Guidelines document.

1. **Class Categories** – As described in the BTC Rulebook
2. **Open Qualifier** - Two teams will be entitled to qualify for the BTC National Team Chase Championship from each Open Class. The qualifiers will be the top two teams to complete the Open Class who have not already qualified elsewhere, provided that they finish in the top twelve places in that Class. The reigning National Champions will automatically qualify for the BTC National Championship. Any team competing in the BTC National Championship may only run under the same name as the team that qualified save that if it subsequently receives sponsorship, it may add a prefix to include the name of that sponsor. Three riders must have satisfactorily completed an Open Class in the previous two years. The fourth member must be able to demonstrate that he/she is suitably experienced and capable of competing in the BTC National Championship. At least two of the horses similarly must have completed an Open Class in the previous two years and the riders of the other two horses must be able to demonstrate that their horses are suitably experienced and capable of competing in the BTC National Championship. The decision of the BTC Executive Committee shall be final in all related matters.
3. **National Team Chase Championship** – The BTC National Team Chase Championship shall take place annually in the Spring Season. The location and date to be decided by BTC on terms to be agreed between BTC and the Event Organisers. The starting order should be drawn and adhered to.
4. **Course Controller** - A Controller is required to run the cross-country course. The Controller's duties are detailed in the BTC Affiliate Event Administration Guidelines - Appendix B. In order to be able to fulfil these duties, at least two radio channels will be required. One channel should be for fence judges to report the progress of teams around the course. The Controller shall be able to listen and talk on this channel and the commentator shall be able to listen only. A second channel is required for administration purposes. The Controller shall be able to listen and talk on all channels. The Course Controllers decision shall be final in all matters relating to safety on the course.

5. **Stewards/Officials** - There should be sufficient officials to fill all roles. On a long day, often relief (particularly for fence judges, etc.) will be necessary which can necessitate reserves being available. Officials should be in their allotted place on time. It is essential for them to be well briefed, particularly in respect of the operation of radios, and to know exactly what is required of them. All on-course officials must be fully aware of any procedures which they are responsible for and/or required to undertake such as the Stopping Procedure, Accident Procedure and Serious Incident Management Procedure.
6. **Timing** - Very accurate timing is essential. Light beam or real-time electronic timing systems ("electronic timing") that can accurately time to 1/100th of a second shall be used for all Speed Classes. Stop-watches shall be used for such classes as a back-up only.

If a flag start is used, the time should be set to start when the first competitor crosses the starting line. The timing system shall be set to record the time of the third horse in the team as it crosses the finish line. Therefore, the total elapsed time for the team around the course shall be from when the first horse crosses the start line to when the third horse crosses the finish line.

In speed classes, the stopping of teams on the course should be avoided if possible. However, if this is required for safety reasons, dedicated stopping points should be provided which are staffed by experienced personnel in radio contact with Control. Stopping procedure shall be given in BTC Affiliate Event Administration Guidelines - Appendix A.

In Open competitions, only one team shall be allowed onto the course at any time. However, the Stopping Procedure detailed in Appendix A should still be implemented and available. All Open Classes must have a visible timing mechanism, so that this can be seen by spectators, competitors and commentators. If one of the first three horses to finish is subsequently disqualified and in the unusual circumstance when there is no ground for eliminating the whole team, the team time will be adjusted to include an extra 20 second penalty.

7. **Rules** – BTC Rules should be included in the event schedule and programme.
8. **Medical Cover Requirements** - No event shall commence unless a suitable qualified, staffed and equipped Healthcare Professional (HP) Team are on duty and can attend to a person on any part of the course in a time critical manner.

Minimum Requirements:

Two Ambulances – At least one 4x4 Ambulance and at least one Road Ambulance.

Ambulance Definitions:

A 4x4 Ambulance is defined as a vehicle fitted with a purpose-built stretcher and not just a rescue basket.

A Road Ambulance is defined as a vehicle in either HDU or A&E configuration.

Four Healthcare Professionals - Two of which must be at least 5 years post primary qualification with valid Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or European Trauma Course (ETC) or BASICS Pre-Hospital Emergency care (PHEC) or Advanced

Trauma life Support (ATLS) **and** Advanced Life Support or equivalent NHS Mandatory Training.

- The number of HPs and required equipment (inc. vehicles) should be determined well in advance of the event depending on the individual course and event circumstances.
 - The HP team must have radio links around the course to Control.
 - The HP team must be familiar with the course and know the quickest route to any part of it.
 - The local Accident and Emergency Unit and Air Ambulance Unit should be informed of the event at least 2 working days in advance of the event, and provision for telephone contact be known.
 - Event ambulances should not be used as transport for uninjured persons, or for hospital transit of patients with minor injuries only, unless authorised by the on-duty Senior HP.
9. **Accident Report Forms** - An Accident Report Form is to be given to each fence steward (blank forms available from the BHSA 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.
 10. **Veterinary Cover** - There must be at least two Vets available on course at each BTC Affiliated Event.
 11. **Horse Casualties** - Organisers shall make adequate arrangements to deal with horse casualties, which will include the provision of suitable screens, appropriate methods to euthanise a severely injured horse, at least one horse casualty wagon, and a separate vehicle suitable for use as a Horse Ambulance and towed by a 4WD vehicle.
 12. **Tired Horses** - A nominated Steward or Stewards, who must be readily identifiable, shall be appointed to stop unfit or exhausted horses from continuing.
 13. **Course Inspection** - All BTC affiliated courses will be inspected prior to an event by an Inspector appointed by BTC, who will need to be satisfied that the course meets the necessary Rules, safety standards and Course Construction Guidelines before permitting 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 will contact the Course Organisers to arrange an inspection date.
 14. **Risk Assessment** - Each event is required to complete a Risk Assessment – pro-forma template is available from BTC – which must be available for the Course Inspector to see when inspecting the course.
 15. **Serious Incident Management** – A procedure should be drawn up and plans put in place to ensure a serious incident is correctly and swiftly managed.
 16. **Safety Equipment** – Event Organisers should carry out the necessary checks to be satisfied that competitors comply with the BTC Rules with regard to wearing the correct safety clothing and equipment. BTC Hats Tags are available on request from BTC.

17. **Insurance** - All events shall ensure that public liability insurance cover for at least £10m 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."**
18. **Organiser's Rights** - The Organiser of any BTC Affiliated Event 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 or prevent any competitor from competing who is adjudged not to be adhering to the Rules or who is deemed to be wearing or using inappropriate dress, saddlery and/or equipment.
19. **Third Party Vehicles** - Any person riding a motorcycle, Quad Bike or similar at an event may only do so with the organiser's express consent in advance and providing that the operator always wears a helmet when the vehicle is in use. Passengers must not be carried on the vehicle at any time.
20. **Obstruction** - Dogs must be kept on leads at all times and a notice to this effect should appear in the programme. Small children should remain under the care and be the responsibility of their parents/carers.
21. **Disclaimer of Liability** - Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of BTC Affiliated Event Organisers for which they are legally responsible, neither the Organisers of any event to which these Regulations apply, nor any representative of these bodies or the Governing Body of Team Chasing (BTC) 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.

3.2 Rules of Competition

BTC competitions follow standardised rules as written in the BTC Rulebook.

3.3 Horse Welfare

Competitors are responsible for the welfare of their horses. Events must adhere to best possible practice regarding equine welfare including but not limited to following the BTC Course Construction guidelines.

3.4 Safety Guidelines

Safety guidelines must be followed to ensure the well-being of participants, horses, and spectators.

4. Code of Conduct

BTC's policy is set out in the BTC Code of Conduct document.

5. Disciplinary Procedures

BTC's policy is set out in the BTC Code of Conduct document.

6. Amendments to the Regulations

6.1 Proposing Amendments

Members may propose amendments to these regulations and the respective BTC Policy documents by submitting their proposal in writing to the Executive Committee, with a full explanation as to the reason for the amendment. The proposal will be considered by the Executive Committee and forwarded to the Board of Directors if it has the support of the majority of the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors will include the proposal in the agenda at the following AGM or EGM if it has support of over 50% of the Board of Directors.

6.2 Approval Process

Amendments are subject to approval by 60% of the Full Members during an AGM or EGM.