

Spillers Response Combined Training Championships

Combined training is a type of competition that tests both your dressage and jumping skills. It comprises a dressage test followed by a jumping round.

You can qualify for the Spillers Response Combined Training Championships, which take place on the first day of the Winter Championships in April, at three different levels: preliminary, novice and open.

You do not need to be a British Dressage (BD) member as you can compete and qualify by using a class ticket, which costs £6. However, if you get through to the championships, you and your horse must be members.

Every year there are about 20 shows that hold qualifiers at the three levels. You will find these classes in the show schedules listed as "SPILLERS 'RESPONSE' DJPQ" for a preliminary, "SPILLERS 'RESPONSE' DJNQ" for novice and "SPILLERS 'RESPONSE' DJOQ" for open qualifiers. From each of these classes, the two highest-placed horses that have not already qualified will go through to the championships.

In the jumping phase, you will be expected to negotiate eight to 12 fences, including at least one double, but there will be no water jumps. The speed demanded at all levels is 325m per minute (350 yards per minute).

The same horse and rider partnership must complete both phases and elimination from one phase means elimination from the competition. The rider who qualified the horse must ride him/her in the championships.

Preliminary

To compete in preliminary qualifiers, your horse is not allowed to have won any affiliated eventing or combined training points and must have less than 125 dressage points.

For the dressage phase, you will be expected to ride a preliminary test. In the jumping phase, the fences will be 2'9". The first two jumps will be 2'6", spread fences will not be wider than 4'6" and parallels 3'3". In the final, the fences won't exceed 3'. Triple bars and staircase-type fences will be a maximum width of 4'6" and parallels 4'.

If your horse has less than 20 combined training points, you can enter preliminary combined training classes as long as they are not qualifiers. Once you have won combined training points at open level, you may not compete in preliminary combined training classes.

No combined training points are awarded at preliminary level.

Novice

To compete in novice qualifiers, your horse must have won less than 21 eventing points, 200 dressage points and 20 combined training points.

In the dressage phase, you will be expected to ride a novice test. In the jumping phase, the fences will be 3'3". The first two jumps will be 3'. Spread fences will not be wider than 5', parallels 3'6". In the final, fences won't exceed 3'6". Triple bars and staircase-type fences will be a maximum width of 5'. A combination fence or doubles will be included.

Horses with less than 30 combined training points can take part in non-qualifying novice combined training classes.

Open

This is open to any horse except those who have competed at international level in a CDI or CDIO.

For the dressage phase, you will be expected to ride an elementary test. In the jumping phase, the fences will be 3'6". The first three fences will be 3'3". Spread fences will not be wider than 5', parallels 4'. In the final, fences won't exceed 3'9". A combination or two doubles will be included.

Please note that the information given here is a simplified guide and that you will need to refer to the current *British Dressage Rules* for full details.