

2026 CHAMPIONSHIP TEST DIRECTIVES

A few queries may arise relating to how the Open tests should be ridden and we would like all judges, competitors, coaches and interested parties to benefit from this information. Please see below.

Open Individual Championship

Part 1

- Gymnastic - Test clearly states one hand NO stirrups

Part 3

- Canter 3 jumps (incl. combination) showing a change of direction (with stirrups)
 - Change of rein to be shown over the second fence i.e. if your approach to the second jump was off a left rein, then you would have to land right to approach your 3rd jump or vice versa.

Part 4

- Jump related distance twice, adding a stride the second time
 - Riders may choose to ride any related distance jumps in the course that are set on a straight line
 - The riders may choose any 2 related fences (verticals and/or oxers provided that oxers are jumped in the right direction)
 - Related distance refers to any 2 jumps set 4-6 strides apart i.e. 4-6 strides relates to the course building distance and not the actual number of strides the horse/pony takes.

Open Team Championship

Part 1

- Bounces on the curve to be ridden with stirrups
- Roll back / turn on the haunches

DEFINITION – This is basically in loose terms a half pirouette but perhaps one would not see the same level of collection and throughness as one would expect from the pure dressage horse and rider.

If a test calls for a **'roll back'** the judge, coach and the competitor must be aware this is always a **'forward'** movement. In Equitation this is only ever ridden from a walk. Whilst this can be more simply termed as a turn on the haunches, it is not a 'turn on the haunches' reigning style.

The **'roll back'** may be ridden from a walk without showing any halt or from a solid halt. If this movement is ridden from the halt then the horse should be given the aid to step forward into the walk and proceed with the rest of the roll back.

A **'roll back'** can be included in any part of a test as part of the flat work that may or may not involve negotiating a jump as part of the movement.

This movement would then be judged on the straightness, accuracy, neatness and compactness of the movement, as well as the level of control and influence the rider has over the horse.

It is NOT correct to mark someone down for halting before proceeding into the **'roll back'**.

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We hope that this clarification assists the competitors. If you have any other queries, please feel free to contact us prior to the show. You may also clarify any movement with the judge on the day, prior to the commencement of the class.

Please note: any query or objection pertaining to Part 1 and / or Part 2 of the test MUST be brought to the attention of the event convenor / senior judge and resolved before the commencement of Part 3, likewise this will also apply to Part 3 before the commencement of Part 4. Once the next part of the competition has commenced queries will not be entertained.

Official objections must be done via the correct written process and accompanied by the fee as determined by the showholding body.