



**RIDE-OFF PROCEDURE FOR THE
SIDE SADDLE RIDER OF THE YEAR** *(Compiled June 2019, undated Oct 2020)*
**For circulation to Finalists, Horse Holders, Judges, Writers,
RO Arena Officials, Legger Uppers, Scorers and Commentator**

RIDER QUALIFICATION

The 4 Riders with the highest percentage scores in the Adult Open Equitation and Adult Open Equitation Jumping classes qualify. (See current Members' Handbook).

HORSES

The 4 Finalists will ride their own horse and then each of the other 3 Finalist's horses. If any competitor objects to the other Finalists riding their horse, they will be asked to withdraw and the next qualified competitor invited. The Finalists will be asked to sign a Disclaimer confirming they have Third Party Insurance for themselves and their Horse, consider their Horse safe and suitable to be ridden by the other 3 Finalists and giving permission for them to do so. If any Finalist does not wish to sign the Disclaimer, their place will offered to the next qualified competitor/(s). Finalists to invite/appoint their own Horse Holders and ensure they are aware of the Dress Code.

JUDGES

The 4 Judges will be selected in advance. Any relationship with any of the 4 Finalists or their horses, which could be seen to distort their judgement, must be declared. Each Judge will select their own Writer and will assess each Finalist on one horse and award their final placings to the Finalists riding that horse only.

DRESS CODE

Arena Stewards, Judges, Writers, and Legger Uppers: Evening Dress/Black Tie

Horse Holders: Appropriate attire and footwear. Hats are not required.

Finalists: as for an Equitation Class (Safety Hats permitted and there will be time to change to Silk Hats for Presentations), wearing their National Show Competitor Number.

ORGANISATION

- ONCE THE 4 FINALISTS ARE KNOWN

The Finalists are advised, given the Disclaimer to sign and allocated an Armband.

- AT LEAST 1 HOUR PRIOR TO THE RIDE OFF

The Commentator briefing sheet is completed

- 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE RIDE-OFF

The **4 Judges**, accompanied by their chosen Writers & the Legger Uppers proceed to their places in the Arena

The **4 Finalists**, mounted, accompanied by their Horse Holders assemble in the Buckingham Arena

PROCEDURE - Commentator is Master of Ceremonies – Commentary Box: Commentator & 2 Scorers

The Commentator makes it clear there is to be no clapping, whooping or cheering during the Ride Off.

The Commentator invites the 4 Finalists, riding their own horses, accompanied by their Horse Holders to take their positions in the corner to the right of the Judges to meet their Legger Uppers. The Finalist with the Red Armband to the right of Judge A, with the Pink Armband to the right of Judge E, with the Blue Armband to the right of Judge C, with the Green Armband to the right of Judge B.

Each Finalist raises their hands to indicate when they are ready, the 4 Finalists begin their 3 minutes freestyle shows simultaneously working in open order, using the whole Arena.

The required movements are walk, trot, canter, on both reins, trot leg yield and lengthened strides on both reins.

The Commentator will give a 30 second warning to end the 3 minutes (timed by the Scorers) when the riders should Halt, Salute and return to their Horse Holder and Legger Upper and dismount.

The Finalists then move left handed round the Arena onto the next horse, accompanied by their Legger Upper, and the procedure is repeated until all 4 Finalists have ridden all 4 horses.

Having ridden the final horse, the 4 Finalists dismount, return to their own horses and leave the Arena to change hats, if required, and remove their armbands, all other personnel leave the Arena and The Presentation Table is brought in

The Judges will assess the Finalists' ability to perform the required movements and their horsemanship proving them worthy of the Title of Side Saddle Rider of the Year. The Judges' Writers record their Judge's overall place for each Finalist in turn, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th which are collected by the RO Arena Officials for the Scorers. The Judges stay at their Tables with their Writers until their Results are collected for the Scorers.

The Scorers record each of the Judges' placings into points (1st = 1, etc). The Finalist with the lowest aggregate of scores is the winner. If there is an equality of points the Finalist with the highest percentage in the Adult Open and Equitation Jumping Classes takes the higher place. If there is still an equality of points, the highest place in the Adult Equitation Class decides.

PRESENTATIONS – As detailed in the Presentation Schedule

Once 4 Finalists re-enter the Arena mounted and **The Commentator announces the FINAL placings in reverse order** (not each individual Judge's placing).