

# SUNSHINE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

## GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS

### Welfare, Safety & Conduct

1. The organisers of these events have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must themselves take all reasonable precautions to avoid/prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers/stewards/security/judges/officials.
2. The organisers, their representatives or helpers do not accept liability for injury, damage or loss suffered by spectators, competitors, their horses, grooms, friends, vehicles or property however caused and under any circumstances except proven negligence of the organisers.
3. The horses' welfare is paramount. Due consideration must be given for the animal's age, experience & fitness when entering and competing. Owners of young/inexperienced animals should consider the impact of journey time, unfamiliar surroundings, size of the showground and rings and the demands of the competition when selecting number/type of classes to participate in. The organisers reserve the right to limit the number and type of classes entered if doubts exist about the horse's welfare. Animals considered to be suffering from the demands of competition may be referred for veterinary assessment, withdrawn from further classes on one day or for the remainder of the competition.
4. Mistreatment of any animals shall not be tolerated, including use of force or misuse of equipment, whether under your supervision or not. Animals deemed to be sick or lame may be referred for vet's inspection and/or not be allowed to compete or be ridden on the showground.
5. Participants, (or their parents/guardians if under 18 years), must consider themselves competent to complete the activity for which they are entering. It is not the responsibility of the organisers to decide if a competitor is competent or their mount is suitable for the class. If the judge deems any rider or horse to be unsuitable / incompatible / unsafe to participate they will be asked to leave immediately.
6. All riders must be a suitable size and weight for the height/type of horse/pony for competition, warm up and exercise at any time on the showground. For guidance the rider should be no more than 20% of the horse's body weight. If doubt exists, the organisers decision is final.
7. Correctly fitting riding hat complying with current safety standards and safe footwear must be worn whilst mounted. Protective head gear is advised for all handlers/leaders and compulsory for Junior Handler class. Body protectors for riders are strongly recommended for show jumping and compulsory for arena eventing and eventers challenges.
8. Vet and medic will be on-site during competition hours. Farrier is on call (not on site). Out of hours veterinary cover will be available, contact details will be available on site. All veterinary or farrier expenses must be paid direct to the vet/farrier in attendance.
9. All visitors to Hickstead Showground, including but not limited to competitors, their grooms, owners, family and friends must comply with any restrictions and rules in place because of Covid-19 risk. Everyone is reminded to take personal responsibility for protecting themselves from the risks of infection and to be respectful to others including personal space, and taking additional hygiene measures to protect others.
10. All competitors and anyone accompanying a competitor in any capacity (family, child, friend, helper, instructor, driver etc!) are expected to support the spirit of the Sunshine Tour as a fun, fair and inclusive event. Any rude, argumentative or abusive behaviour in person or online, to other competitors, spectators, judges, officials or stewards will not be tolerated and could result in being banned from the showground immediately or future entries being barred. If you encounter a problem during the show, please contact security or show staff immediately.
11. If you contravene any welfare or conduct rule that results in your right to compete being withdrawn, you will not be eligible for refunds.

### Media & Communication

1. Competitors and owners of horses/ponies competing at the Sunshine Tour agree to maintain their social media posts, comments and conversations in a fair and transparent manner.
2. The organisers reserve the right to monitor, intercept and review any media post relating to the Sunshine Tour, your participation and experience of the event.
3. Comments or posts about the Sunshine Tour should be clear that they represent a personal view and are not endorsed by the organiser.
4. Comments or posts must not be damaging to the name or reputation of the Sunshine Tour or deemed to be abusive, derogatory, threatening, scandalous or offensive to any Sunshine Tour competitor, official or volunteer. Any comment or post about the Sunshine Tour must be visible to the Sunshine Tour administrator and may be challenged and required to be removed.
5. Failure to maintain a reasonable and fair online communication about the Sunshine Tour may result in competitors' entries being cancelled or future entries being barred.
6. This event may be covered and featured by all types of media, including and not limited to journalists, reporters, television, radio and Sunshine Tour's own social media and news reports. Photos and video taken at the event may be transmitted, printed and used by media and Sunshine Tour for an unlimited period. Competitors who do not wish images to be used by media should state this with their entry.

### Eligibility & Entries

1. To be eligible to compete in any championship class, entrants must have qualified in the current qualification period and recorded their qualification/s. The correct entry fee must be received to be eligible to compete/participate.
2. Absolutely no substitutions of horse or rider allowed in any championship class.
3. It is the responsibility of the competitor (or parent/guardian if under 18 years ) to check if they are eligible to compete and that they comply with the rules applied to every class entered. Competitors must comply with restrictions applicable to their class on the day of championship.
4. The Sunshine Tour reserves the right to refuse an entry or refuse entry to the showground without having to state a reason.
5. In the event of insufficient entries, classes may be combined and judged as one class.
6. Riders who qualify for multiple levels of championship can compete in a maximum of 5 levels in show jumping, 3 levels in eventers challenge or 2 consecutive levels in dressage. If you qualify for more levels, you must relinquish the lowest level/s.
7. Competitors must be 3 years old or over on the day of the championships, there's no upper age limit. Horses/ponies must be 4 years old or over to compete in ridden classes. Stallions are welcome provided they are ridden/handled by an experienced person, displaying appropriate tail ribbons, are well behaved and not causing a nuisance or danger to other competitors or their horses.

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# GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS *continued*

## Refunds & Fees

1. We reserve the right to alter any part or the whole of the schedule at any time. In the event of a class being cancelled, refunds will be issued.
2. Withdrawals received up to the close of entries will be accepted and refunded.
3. Competitors applying for a refund after close of entries must submit evidence verified by a hospital, doctor or vet certificate. Only a doctor or vet can provide evidence for a medical withdrawal, correspondence from farriers, physios or other health professionals are not accepted.
4. Only acute and recent medical conditions, traumas or illnesses will be acceptable, pre-existing or chronic conditions will not be accepted for the purposes of generating a refund.
5. Refunds are considered on a case by case basis, within the following time limits: 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August may be eligible for 75% refund; 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 50% refund; 1<sup>st</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> September 25% refund; 8<sup>th</sup> September onward - no refund for any reason.
6. Notification must be received in writing to the Sunshine Tour office by email [info@sunshinetour.co.uk](mailto:info@sunshinetour.co.uk) or by letter to Sunshine Tour HQ. Text, Facebook, Messenger or WhatsApp messages or phone calls are not accepted as official withdrawal notification. Medical verification to apply for a partial refund must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September following the current show.
7. Bad weather - If weather or ground conditions are poor it is the responsibility of competitors to confirm that the event is running by checking website [www.sunshinetour.co.uk](http://www.sunshinetour.co.uk) on the evening before or morning of the competition. Every effort will be made to re-schedule, but in the event of the competition being cancelled, entry fees minus administration charge will be returned to competitors.

## Competition Rules & Prizes

1. Rules for guidance: Dressage: British Dressage; Show Jumping: British Showjumping; Showing: The Showing Register; Eventers: British Eventing & Sunshine Tour. All decisions are subject to Sunshine Tour rulings and might not reflect exact conditions of national rule books.
2. Dispensation for exception to rules must be ratified by the relevant society (BD, BS, BE), submitted with entry and presented to the secretary and steward on the day of competition, prior to competing.
3. It is the competitors responsibility to compete in approved tack & clothing. Spot checks may be carried out to check for compliance with relevant rules (BD, BS, BE). Competitors found to be competing with 'illegal' tack may be disqualified even if they have already competed.
4. Objections: Sunshine Tour uses expert judges and their decision is to be respected. Any objections about the conduct of classes must be brought to the organiser's attention within 60 minutes of the incident and we will make every effort to resolve problems. If we cannot resolve the problem and you wish to lodge a formal complaint and request further investigation, you should lodge your complaint on the day of competition in writing with the secretary and supported by a £50 deposit.
5. Video evidence is not usually admissible to support a complaint. We will view video evidence as part of an investigation, but in the event of a discrepancy between the judge's view and a video view, the judge's must take priority.
6. Prizes stated in the schedule are subject to alteration or substitution. Prize winners may have their eligibility checked prior to prize collection and some prizes may require collection at a later date or incur postage costs. In the event of insufficient entries some prizes will be withheld.

## Showground Rules & Security

1. Whilst on the showground, all horse/ponies must wear a bridle and display correct competitor number. This applies at all times on the showground, even walking in-hand or exercise/familiarisation. You're not required to display competitor number in stable field or parking area.
2. Horse passports must be brought to the showground. If you are travelling separately, the passport should be with the horse. Passports must be available for inspection up on arrival, at any time if requested by security or show staff in the parking area.
3. Horses/ponies must have up-to-date annual vaccination or have completed at least TWO initial vaccination injections. In either case, the last injection/booster must not be given after 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
4. Scooters, bicycles, skate/hover boards, tricycles etc are NOT ALLOWED on the showground (does not apply to stable field).
5. Horse Walks: just walking allowed in the horse walk! No holding horses or stopping and chatting with friends! No trotting or cantering.
6. All dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Owners who allow their dogs to run loose on the showground, stable area or parking areas will be required to remove them from the premises immediately.
7. No access to Hickstead's international arena including the surround and the Derby bank at any time, day or night, not even people on foot!
8. Security are on duty 24 hours a day. Any incident should be reported to WH Security or Sunshine Tour show secretary or show director immediately. 24 hour contact 07904 898696 (only for emergencies between 9pm and 6am).
9. Good conduct and reasonable behaviour is expected at all times. WH Security have the right to summon police/evict/detain persons deemed to be behaving in an unreasonable/abusive/dangerous manner.

## Stabling, Camping & Staying Overnight

1. Competitors and their friends & family are permitted to stay overnight in their horsebox or trailer for free if their horse is being stabled at the showground. Additional vehicles for staying overnight, e.g. campervan, caravan, additional horsebox etc. will incur a charge per night.
2. Good neighbour, good conduct and considerate noise levels are expected in the camping area. Noise should be kept to a minimum between 11pm and 6am. Campers found to be causing noise or nuisance to their neighbours may be evicted by security.
3. No open fires. Small generators are permitted, only silent generators can be left on after 11pm and operated before 6am.
4. On site toilets and showers are available. Do not empty caravan/lorry toilet contents into the public toilets, an Elsan point is provided.
5. Dogs must be kept on a lead in stables and camping areas. If kept under control, dogs can be off lead in outside fields away from camping & stables. All dog mess must be bagged and disposed of in a bin. Dogs deemed to be causing a nuisance should be reported to WH security.
6. Horse passports must be presented to the stable manager when claiming your stable.
7. £10 cash deposit per stable is required upon arrival. Deposit will be returned on departure provided stable has been mucked out - your stable may be inspected or you may be asked to provide proof. You may be issued with a deposit or stable allocation slips, which should be retained to claim your deposit back.
8. If your stable is not mucked out when you arrive, inform the stable manager immediately. Please note: Stables at Hickstead are deep litter, some stables have plenty of bedding left by previous occupant, some do not, under bedding may be damp, you are advised to bring or pre-purchase some bedding to freshen up / add depth to the bed. Do not muck out to the ground unless you have a considerable amount of clean bedding to replace removed bed. Shavings or flax bedding only. Straw, paper or cardboard are not permitted,