

2027

MCI GB

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2027 RULES AND REGULATIONS

BRITISH QUALIFIERS

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This version of the rules and regulations supersedes any earlier version. The reference version is the version that is currently published on the website of the MCI GB www.mcigb.co.uk

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MCI GB – RULES AND REGULATIONS 2027

1. INTRODUCTION

The Masters du Cheval Ibérique of Great Britain (MCI GB) was established in 2015 to provide owners and riders of Iberian horses with the opportunity to compete in dressage competitions throughout the UK, from Young Horse classes through to Grand Prix, against fellow Iberian horses and riders.

MCI GB organises qualifying competitions at venues throughout the United Kingdom and is responsible for managing the national qualification process, including the number of qualifying competitions, the allocation of league points, minimum participation requirements and the percentage scores required to qualify for the MCI GB National Championships and potential selection to represent Great Britain at the MCI European Finals.

The MCI GB national circuit is open to purebred and part-bred Iberian horses (PRE and PSL). MCI GB organises its own annual National Championships, with eligibility provisions for purebred and part-bred/Fusion Iberians.

The annual MCI European Finals bring together competitors from across Europe. These prestigious Championships are hosted in a different European country each year. In accordance with MCI EU regulations, only purebred PRE and PSL horses are eligible to qualify for and compete at the European Finals.

The 2027 MCI GB National Championships will take place at Addington Equestrian on the 18th – 19th September 2027.

Anyone wishing to participate in the MCI GB qualifying series must hold valid MCI GB membership and is deemed to have read, understood and accepted these Rules and Regulations.

MCI GB will maintain and publish an annual league table showing provisional rankings for each test following each qualifying competition. The league tables will be publicly accessible on the MCI GB website.

1.1 MCI GB Dressage Tests

The MCI GB qualifying series comprises 18 tests, ranging from Young Horse to Grand Prix, including eight Freestyle to Music classes.

The Paso Doble, Novato, Salsa and Tango classes are eligible for qualification towards the MCI GB National Championships only. Results in these classes cannot be used to qualify for the MCI European Finals.

1.2 List of Dressage Tests

Standard Dressage Tests

Test	Level
PRIMERA	Preliminary – Young Horse, 4–6 years
NOVILLA	Novice/Elementary – Young Horse, 4–6 years
PASO DOBLE	Preliminary – 7 years and over
NOVATO	Novice/Elementary – 7 years and over
GOLEGA	Elementary
SEVILLA	Medium/Advanced Medium
LISBOA	Advanced Medium
MADRID	Prix St Georges
MAGISTRALE	Intermediate B
REYALE	Grand Prix

Freestyle to Music Tests

Test	Level
SALSA	Preliminary – 7 years and over
TANGO	Novice/Elementary – 7 years and over
CARMENCITA	Elementary
FLAMENCA	Medium/Advanced Medium
FANDANGO	Advanced Medium
LUSITANIA	Prix St Georges/Intermediate I
BAILARINA	Intermediate B
IBERICA	Grand Prix

1.3 Membership

All owners, riders and horses must hold valid MCI GB membership to participate in MCI GB qualifiers and the National Championships. Horses and riders wishing to be considered for selection to the European Finals must also meet the relevant MCI GB and MCI EU membership requirements.

Membership runs annually from 1 January to 31 December and must be renewed each year.

Annual membership fees and joining information are available on the MCI GB website, with new members able to register online.

All qualification scores are recorded against the horse's name on the league table. A change of rider is permitted, subject to a maximum of two different riders per horse during the qualifying season.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these Rules and Regulations, the following definitions apply:

MCI GB (Masters du Cheval Ibérique of Great Britain)

The British branch of MCI EU, responsible for organising and administering MCI qualifying competitions throughout Great Britain, the national league and the MCI GB National Championships, as well as the selection process for the MCI European Finals.

Qualifiers

Competitions held at National or Regional level where results count towards the MCI GB league table and the qualification process for the National Championships and/or European Finals.

Qualifying Season

The period commencing on 1 January 2027 and ending on 15 September 2027. Results achieved during this period will be used to determine the final league rankings and eligibility for selection to the European Finals. The number of places allocated to Great Britain will be determined by MCI EU Headquarters.

MCI European Finals / European Masters

The annual European Championships organised by MCI EU, bringing together selected competitors from participating European countries.

MCI EU

The European governing organisation, based in France, which brings together the national MCI associations and oversees the organisation and regulations of the European Finals.

Competitor

A horse and rider combination.

A rider may compete on multiple horses. However, each horse may have a maximum of two different riders during the qualifying season. All scores achieved remain recorded against the horse's name on the league table.

3. PARTICIPATION RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

MCI EU recognises MCI GB as the only authorised British association responsible for organising MCI qualifying competitions and administering the selection process within Great Britain.

MCI GB is responsible for organising its own National Championships and selecting eligible competitors to represent Great Britain at the annual MCI European Finals.

MCI GB may introduce and operate national rules appropriate to the British qualifying circuit, provided that these do not conflict with the general regulations established by MCI EU, particularly those governing qualification and the allocation of places at the European Finals.

4. DRESSAGE TESTS AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS – 2027

4.1 Dressage Tests

MCI GB runs 18 dressage tests throughout the UK, from Young Horse to Grand Prix, including eight MCI-specific Freestyle to Music tests.

The 2027 tests are based on the relevant FFE, FEI or SHF test formats and are allocated to the following levels:

MCI Test	Level / Equivalent
PRIMERA	Young Horse – 4–6 years
NOVILLA	Young Horse – 4–6 years
PASO DOBLE	Preliminary – 7 years and over
SALSA (Freestyle)	Preliminary – 7 years and over
NOVATO	Novice – 7 years and over
TANGO (Freestyle)	Novice – 7 years and over
GOLEGA	Level 1 – Elementary
CARMENCITA (Freestyle)	Level 1 – MCI Freestyle
SEVILLA	Level 2 – Medium/Advanced Medium
FLAMENCA (Freestyle)	Level 2 – MCI Freestyle
LISBOA	Level 3 – Advanced Medium
FANDANGO (Freestyle)	Level 3 – MCI Freestyle
MADRID	Level 4 – Prix St Georges
LUSITANIA (Freestyle)	Level 4 – MCI Freestyle
MAGISTRALE	Level 5 – Intermediate B
BAILARINA (Freestyle)	Level 5 – MCI Freestyle
REYALE	Level 6 – Grand Prix
IBERICA (Freestyle)	Level 6 – MCI Freestyle

4.2 Qualification for the MCI GB National Championships

To qualify for the MCI GB National Championships:

1. The horse and rider combination must hold valid MCI GB membership.

2. The combination must achieve a minimum of one score of 60% or above in its chosen standard dressage test, recorded on the MCI GB league table.

Achieving the qualifying score in a standard test will automatically qualify the same horse and rider combination to compete in the corresponding Freestyle to Music class at that level. A separate freestyle qualifying score is not required, although is recommended.

For example, a score of 60% or above in the Golega will qualify the combination for the Camencita Freestyle.

Although a separate qualifying score is not required, competitors are strongly encouraged to compete their freestyle test before entering the National Championships to achieve higher scores.

4.3 Qualification and Selection for the MCI European Finals

Selection to represent Great Britain at the MCI European Finals is based on the MCI GB league rankings, subject to the number of places allocated to Great Britain by MCI EU Headquarters.

The number of places allocated to each country is determined by participation levels in the qualifying competitions during the relevant season.

To be eligible for selection, the following requirements must be met:

1. The horse and rider combination must hold valid MCI GB membership.

2. The horse must achieve a minimum of three qualifying scores, obtained at three separate competition dates during the qualifying season plus a minimum of one freestyle score.

3. The combination must achieve the minimum percentage required for its chosen test, as detailed below.

4. The horse must be eligible under MCI EU regulations. Only purebred PRE and PSL horses may compete at the European Finals.

5. The combination must compete in at least one test at the annual MCI GB National Championships to remain eligible for selection, unless a wildcard exemption has been granted by the MCI GB Selection Committee. Wildcard places are discretionary and are not guaranteed to be available every year.

Minimum percentage requirements for European qualification:

Test	Minimum Percentage
PRIMERA & NOVILLA	More than 69%
GOLEGA & SEVILLA	More than 65%
LISBOA	More than 64%
MADRID	More than 63%
MAGISTRALE & REYALE	More than 62%
CARMENCITA & FLAMENCA Freestyles	More than 66%
FANDANGO Freestyle	More than 65%
LUSITANIA Freestyle	More than 65%
BAILARINA & IBERICA Freestyles	More than 64%

Meeting the minimum percentages does not automatically guarantee selection as the rider-horse combination must compete at the MCI GB National Championships. Final selection is also subject to the horse's position on the league table, the number of places allocated to Great Britain and the relevant MCI GB and MCI EU regulations.

4.4 Dressage Test Sheets and Callers

All current dressage test sheets are available on the MCI GB website: www.mcigb.co.uk

At MCI GB qualifying competitions, competitors may request the assistance of a caller.

Callers must read the test as written and must not provide additional instructions, repeat movements or offer any other assistance. Any unauthorised assistance may result in penalties or elimination.

Callers are not permitted at the MCI GB National Championships at Addington Equestrian.

4.5 Changes to Dressage Tests

MCI EU Headquarters may introduce changes to dressage tests during the year.

To ensure consistency throughout the British qualifying season, MCI GB will retain the tests published at the beginning of the season. No changes to the tests will be implemented for MCI GB qualifiers between 1 January and 15 September 2027.

However, any changes introduced by MCI EU Headquarters must be followed by competitors at the European Finals. Competitors selected to represent Great Britain are responsible for ensuring they are familiar with and prepared to ride the latest European test versions.

5. ORGANISATION OF QUALIFIERS

MCI GB is responsible for arranging and administering qualifying competitions at venues throughout the United Kingdom.

Every effort will be made to secure a wide range of venues to ensure that members have reasonable access to local qualifying competitions.

Qualifying competitions are organised at the discretion of individual venues. Venues are not obliged to hold qualifiers every year, and their participation is voluntary.

Members are encouraged to support their local venues to help ensure that qualifying competitions continue to be available in future seasons.

6. MCI GB LEAGUE TABLE

6.1 League Rankings

MCI GB will maintain and update the national league tables throughout the qualifying season, recording results and provisional rankings for each test following every qualifying competition.

The league tables will be publicly available on the MCI GB website at www.mcigb.co.uk.

All qualifying scores are recorded against the horse's name, irrespective of any permitted change of rider.

6.2 European Qualification Scores

A horse must achieve a minimum of three qualifying scores at three separate competition dates during the qualifying season to be considered for selection to represent Great Britain at the MCI European Finals.

A horse must achieve a minimum of one qualifying score in their chosen freestyle during the qualifying season to be considered for selection to represent Great Britain at the MCI European Finals.

The minimum percentage requirements for each test are detailed in Section 4.3.

6.3 National Regulations

MCI GB may establish and implement its own national rules and regulations governing the British qualifying circuit, league tables and National Championships, provided these do not conflict with the general regulations of MCI EU.

In particular, the allocation of places and eligibility requirements for the MCI European Finals must comply with MCI EU regulations.

7. MCI EUROPEAN FINALS – ALLOCATION OF PLACES

7.1 Allocation of Places to Each Country

The number of places allocated to each country at the MCI European Finals is determined by MCI EU Headquarters and is based on the level of participation in the qualifying competitions for each individual test during the qualifying season.

The greater the number of competitors participating in the qualifying series for a particular test, the greater the potential number of places allocated to that country for that test.

For example, if 28 competitors qualify in the Sevilla test and appear on the MCI GB league table, but MCI GB is allocated only seven places for Sevilla at the European Finals, the seven places will be offered through the selection process in accordance with Section 8.

This means that the number of competitors participating in the British qualifying circuit can directly influence the number of European places allocated to Great Britain.

7.2 Additional Allocation for the Host Country

The country hosting the MCI European Finals will receive an additional allocation of 15% places for its team.

This additional allocation excludes Freestyle classes and may be distributed by the host country at its discretion between the different dressage levels.

7.3 Publication of European Rankings and Allocations

MCI EU will regularly update the national rankings for each country and each test, together with the number of places provisionally allocated to each country for the European Finals.

These allocations will be based on the qualifying results and league tables published by the respective national MCI organisations.

7.4 MCI EU Rules and Regulations

MCI EU Headquarters will provide the current Rules and Regulations applicable to the European Finals.

All national MCI organisations and their members are required to comply with these regulations when participating in the European Finals.

The latest European regulations will be available on the MCI EU website: www.masters-iberique.com

Failure to accept a place within the specified timeframe may result in the place being offered to another eligible competitor.

For example (this table is only an example):

TESTS	**Number of Competitors during the qualifying season**										
Primera Novilla	1 - 4	5 – 7	8-11	12-15	16-20	21-25	26-31	32-37	38-43	44-50	50+
Golega Carmencita Sevilla Flamenca	1 - 4	5 - 9	10-14	15-20	21-26	27-33	34-40	41-48	49-56	57-65	65+
Lisboa Fandango Madrid Lusitania	1- 3	4 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-36	37-45	45+
Magistrale Bailarina Reyale Iberica	1 - 2	3	4 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 9	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-18	19-21	22+
Number of Final places	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**

8. SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE EUROPEAN FINALS

8.1 Selection Eligibility

At the end of the qualifying season, all horses and riders being considered for selection to the MCI European Finals must satisfy the qualification requirements set out in Section 4.3 and the following additional conditions:

1. League Table Ranking: The horse must appear on the MCI GB league table for the relevant test, having achieved the required minimum number of qualifying scores at the chosen level.

2. One Entry Per Horse in Each Test: A horse may only be represented once in the same test at the European Finals. If a horse qualifies for the same test with two different riders, the owner must decide which rider will compete.

3. One Entry Per Rider in Each Test: A rider may only compete once in the same test at the European Finals. If a rider qualifies with more than one horse in the same test, the rider must decide which horse they wish to compete.

4. Maximum of Two Tests Per Horse: A horse may compete in a maximum of two tests at the European Finals. If a horse qualifies for more than two tests, the owner must choose which two tests the horse will contest.

5. Young Horse Eligibility: To compete in PRIMERA or NOVILLA at the European Finals, a horse must be no older than six years during the relevant calendar year.

6. Withdrawals and Replacement Competitors: If a withdrawal by a selected horse or rider is received by the specified deadline, the vacant place may be offered to the next eligible combination on the relevant league table that has not already been selected, subject to the available quota and approval by MCI GB.

8.2 Confirmation of Selection

MCI GB will notify selected competitors once the European places allocated to Great Britain have been confirmed by MCI EU Headquarters.

Selected competitors must confirm their acceptance of their place by the deadline specified by MCI GB.

If a competitor declines their place or fails to respond within the specified timeframe, MCI GB reserves the right to offer the place to the next eligible combination on the relevant league table.

8.3 Final Selection Decisions

All selection decisions will be made by MCI GB in accordance with these Rules and Regulations and the requirements of MCI EU.

MCI GB reserves the right to make the final decision on selection where clarification or interpretation of these regulations is required.

9. DRESS, TACK AND COMPETITION EQUIPMENT

9.1 General Regulations

Dress, tack and equipment requirements for MCI GB competitions will follow the relevant MCI EU regulations and applicable British Dressage/FEI rules, as appropriate.

MCI GB reserves the right to amend these requirements if MCI EU or the relevant governing bodies introduce changes.

Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their dress, tack and equipment comply with the regulations applicable to each competition.

9.2 Horse Tack

For all MCI GB qualifiers in Great Britain, classical English tack must be used.

At the MCI GB National Championships, Spanish or Portuguese traditional tack is also permitted. The use of traditional tack does not attract additional marks but provides competitors with an opportunity to compete in traditional Iberian attire ahead of the European Finals.

All bits must comply with the relevant FEI dressage regulations.

Martingales and other similar training aids are prohibited.

Boots, bandages, blinkers, shields and earmuffs are not permitted during any MCI GB qualifying competitions.

9.3 Rider Dress

Classical English riding attire is required at all MCI GB qualifying competitions.

At the MCI GB National Championships, Spanish or Portuguese traditional riding attire is also permitted.

9.4 Spurs

Spurs must comply with the current FEI regulations regarding type, design and permitted dimensions.

9.5 Whips

Whips are permitted at all MCI GB qualifying competitions, including the National Championships.

A whip may only be carried and used by the competing rider or by a person walking the horse in hand. Any other person authorised to carry a whip must ensure that it does not interfere with the horse's training or behaviour.

The maximum permitted whip length is 1.20 metres.

At the MCI European Finals, whips are prohibited in all tests except PRIMERA and NOVILLA, subject to the current MCI EU regulations.

9.6 Headphones

Riders may use headphones when exercising or training in the warm-up areas, where permitted by the competition organiser.

Headphones are strictly prohibited during all competition tests.

9.7 Callers

Callers are not permitted during the MCI GB National Championships or the MCI European Finals.

The rules regarding callers at other MCI GB qualifiers are set out in Section 4.4.

9.8 Protective Headgear

9.8.1 All riders must wear approved protective riding helmets whenever mounted at an MCI GB competition or qualifier, including when exercising, warming up and competing.

9.8.2 Protective helmets must comply with one of the following recognised safety standards:

- British: PAS 015 (2011 and subsequent updates).
- European: VG1.
- European: EN 1384:2017, only when used in conjunction with another accepted standard from this list.
- American: SNELL E2016 or E2021.
- Australia/New Zealand: AS/NZS 3838:2006 or subsequent versions.

9.8.3 Riders are strongly encouraged to wear helmets bearing the relevant BSI Kitemark (PAS 015 or VG1) or SAI mark (AS/NZS 3838), in addition to meeting the required safety standard.

9.8.4 Helmet harnesses must be correctly fastened at all times when mounted. Riders are strongly advised to inspect their helmets regularly and replace them following any significant impact, fall or damage.

9.8.5 If a rider begins a test without wearing compliant protective headgear, the Judge must ring the bell and instruct the rider to dismount and leave the arena. At the discretion of the organiser and Judge, the rider may be permitted to restart the test once correctly attired.

Failure to comply with the instruction may result in elimination from all classes on that day. The same requirements apply if a helmet is found not to meet the required safety standards during a spot check.

9.8.6 Standard protective riding helmets are accepted with traditional Iberian riding attire and will not affect the Freestyle dress marks at the European Finals.

9.9 Freestyle Dress Code – European Finals

At the MCI European Finals, additional marks may be awarded for traditional dress and presentation in Freestyle classes, in accordance with the following criteria:

Dress / Presentation	**Available Points**
Spanish or Portuguese traditional dress	10, 12, 14 or 16 points, depending on the outfit
Classical riding attire	8, 9 or 10 points
Plaited tail	1 point
Plaited mane	1 point
Traditional saddle	2 points

These marks are subject to the current MCI EU Freestyle regulations.

10. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MCI GB MEMBERS

All MCI GB members are expected to behave respectfully and responsibly towards other members, competitors, officials, organisers, spectators and the wider equestrian community.

Members must not:

- Behave in a manner that is offensive, intimidating, threatening or otherwise inappropriate towards any individual.
- Discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief.
- Ill-treat or mistreat any horse or pony.
- Misuse or excessively use a whip, spur, bit or any other training aid.
- Behave in a manner that could bring MCI GB into disrepute or damage its reputation or interests.
- Use foul, abusive or threatening language or behave in an intimidating or aggressive manner.
- Publish or share inappropriate, offensive, intimidating or threatening comments, photographs or other material on social media that could damage the reputation of MCI GB or any of its members.

All members are required to comply with this Code of Conduct as a condition of membership.

MCI GB reserves the right to investigate reported breaches and take appropriate action where necessary.

11. MCI GB – GENERAL BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

MCI GB is the trading name of the MCIGB Limited.

The company operates in accordance with its corporate governance requirements, with an Annual General Meeting (AGM) attended by the relevant directors and other authorised representatives, including proxies and auditors where applicable.

Members wishing to make recommendations, provide feedback or raise a complaint should contact the MCI GB Committee by email at:

office@mcigb.co.uk

All correspondence will be considered by the Committee and dealt with as appropriate.

12. FEI CODE OF CONDUCT AND HORSE WELFARE

MCI GB expects all members, competitors and anyone involved in its competitions to uphold the FEI Code of Conduct and recognise that the welfare of the horse must always be the highest priority.

The following principles must be observed at all times:

1. Horse Welfare Comes First: The welfare of the horse must take precedence over all other considerations during preparation, training and competition. This includes appropriate horse management, training methods, farriery, saddlery, tack and transportation.

2. Fitness to Compete: Horses and riders must be physically fit, competent and in good health to participate in competition. Particular attention must be paid to the responsible use of medication, surgical procedures, pregnancy in mares and the appropriate use of training aids.

3. Safe Competition Environment: Competitions must be organised in a way that does not compromise horse welfare. Particular attention must be given to arena conditions, ground surfaces, weather, stabling, site safety and the horse's fitness to travel after the event.

4. Care Following Competition: Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive appropriate care and attention following competition and throughout their lives, including veterinary treatment, management of injuries, humane retirement and, where necessary, euthanasia.

5. Knowledge and Education: Everyone involved in equestrian sport should continually seek to improve their knowledge and expertise to ensure the highest possible standards of horse care and welfare.

12.1 FEI – Objectives and General Principles of Dressage

The objective of dressage is to develop the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education.

Through correct training, the horse should become calm, supple, loose, flexible, confident, attentive and willing, developing a harmonious understanding with its rider.

These qualities should be demonstrated through:

- The freedom and regularity of the paces.
- The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements.
- The lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters, originating from lively impulsion.
- Acceptance of the bit, with submission and throughness without tension or resistance.

A full copy of the FEI Code of Conduct and applicable dressage regulations is available from the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) website:

www.fei.org

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