National Schools Equestrian Association™

NSEA Eventers Challenge

PONTISPOOL EQUINE SPORTS CENTRE
Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 1BH

Sunday 8th November 2026

60cm, 70cm, 80cm, 90cm, 100cm classes

Including
70cm, 80cm, 90cm & 1m qualifying classes for the
NSEA Eventers Challenge Final @ Hickstead May 2027
Top 2 teams & 4 individuals to qualify

60cm qualifying class for the
NSEA Eventers Challenge Final @ Hickstead August 2027
Top 2 teams & 4 individuals to qualify

This competition is open to schools from all counties and will also count for RPL points

Kindly sponsored by:

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Online Entries only at www.pontispool.com
Entries Close: 12 noon Monday 2nd November
(entries strictly limited and will be on a first come, first served basis and will close when full)

Approx 8am start

Eventers Challenge Qualifiers

The Course is made up of SJ & simulated XC fences with an optimum time & no style marks. Larger arenas may use secured XC portables. Riders will jump a series of show jumps and then proceed immediately into the XC phase which is run on an optimum time of 325 - 400m/m. The course will be run in the all-weather arena and will be made up of approx. 16 – 18 fences with permanent banks, ditches, water and portable fences.

Class 1 **60cm Team & Individual ECQ** (NSEA Hickstead August Qualifier) ***New for 2026-27***
Single phase. All team riders automatically count as individuals.
Optimum Time (XC phase only) Speed 325 mpm.

Class 2 **Mini 70-75cm Team & Individual ECQ** (NSEA Hickstead May qualifier)
Single phase. All team riders automatically count as individuals.
Optimum Time (XC phase only) Speed 350 mpm.

Class 3 **Novice 80-85cm Team & Individual ECQ** (NSEA Hickstead May qualifier)
Single phase. All team riders automatically count as individuals.
Optimum Time (XC phase only) Speed 375 mpm.

Class 4 **Intermediate 90-95cm Team & Individual ECQ**
(NSEA Hickstead May qualifier)
Single phase. All team riders automatically count as individuals
Optimum Time (XC phase only) Speed 375 mpm.

Class 5 **1m-1.05 Open Team & Individual ECQ** (NSEA Hickstead May qualifier)
Single phase. All team riders automatically count as individuals
Optimum Time (XC phase only) Speed 400 mpm.

Teams of 3 or 4, best 3 scores to count

Entry Fee for all classes: £41.50 per rider per round
(Entry fee including VAT + Paramedic First Aid Cover + NSEA Levy)

Online entries only at www.pontispool.com
Entries close 12 noon Monday 2nd November, or earlier if classes are full.

All TEAM MANAGERS must declare teams NO LATER than 12 noon on Monday 2nd November.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY CHANGES AFTER MIDDAY ON FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER.

No entries will be accepted on day of competition.
Late entries may be accepted if space permits but will incur a £3 surcharge.
Any alterations to entries will incur a £6 admin fee.
Withdrawals made prior to closing date will receive a refund of the entry with a £6 admin fee deducted.
No refunds will be given after the closing date.
In the event of cancellation, a minimum of 50% of your entry fee will be refunded.
Please refer to full T&Cs on our website www.pontispool.com

START TIMES will be published on the website www.nsearesults.co.uk on the evening of Thursday 5th November.

COURSE WALKING available from 2pm on Friday 6th November and on Saturday & Sunday between classes or before and after competition. Check www.nsearesults.co.uk for course walk times and updated information.

NSEA Eventers Challenge Rules for Scoring 2026-27

The intention of these rules is to reward riders who have a clear round and to penalise riders who have jumping penalties or who are significantly faster than the Optimum Time. Where there are several competitors with a clear round, then the nearest to the Optimum Time will win, rewarding an appropriate judgement of pace around the course.

EC1) Open to Teams and Individuals

- Riders will jump a course of 5-8 show jumps and then proceed immediately into the XC phase of 8-15 simulated XC fences, depending on the size of the arena
- The speed for the XC phase will be between 320m/m to 375m/m depending on the size of the arena – smaller arena = tighter turns which slow you down. A larger arena with flowing lines will ride on a quicker time. The speed for each class will be given in the schedule or on the noticeboard at the event. Times will be recorded to one-hundredth of a second if the timing equipment allows.
- NSEA/BE Eventing Rules for tack and rider equipment for XC.
- There will be no style mark. No age restriction on the mini (70/75) class.
- Top two teams and 4 Individuals at each height to qualify for the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championship to be held at Hickstead in May.

EC2) Dress: XC colours, body protectors are compulsory. Hair must be above collar length, long hair to be kept in place in a hair net. Rider must wear BE approved skull caps, no fixed peak SJ hats.

EC3) The competitor with the fewest penalties wins. In the event of a tie, the competitor closest to the optimum time will be the winner. In the team competition, the total of the best three scores is used to place the team. The combined difference from the Optimum Time of the 3 best scores is used to break any ties.

EC4) The top 2 teams & 4 individuals at each qualifier will qualify for the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championship.

EC5) Organisers are asked to ensure that the XC phase includes elements that give a choice about the track and therefore the time taken. Organisers are asked not to display a clock showing the time taken visible to the rider to as the aim is to educate riders to ride by feel.

Penalties are awarded as follows

Knockdown (to include SJ and knockable xc fences)	4 penalties
1st Refusal	4 penalties
2nd Refusal	8 penalties
3rd Refusal	Elimination
Rider Fall	Elimination
Horse Fall	Elimination
Starting before the bell, retaking an obstacle already jumped, error of course or outside assistance	Elimination
Where the Optimum Time is 120 seconds or less, for every commenced second in excess of 10 seconds under the optimum time	1 penalty
Where the Optimum Time more than 120 seconds, for every commenced second in excess of 15 seconds under the optimum time	1 penalty
Exceeding time limit (2 times the Optimum Time)	Elimination

Disclaimer

Pontispool Equine Sports Centre and all those connected with the Equestrian facilities do not accept any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, grooms, spectators, dogs or any other persons or property whatsoever whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract or statutory duty of themselves, their employees or those connected with the Equestrian facilities or otherwise howsoever.

Your Responsibility

All persons attending the event must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents and must obey instructions given by the Organiser or by officials and stewards on its behalf.

All competitors and those associated with their school are the responsibility of the Team Manager whilst at the competition

TV & Photography

Please note that professional photographers will be present at NSEA competitions. There may also be TV cameras at the Championships. Please indicate on the entry form if you do not wish to appear in press coverage/ TV or photos taken by our official photographers

Child Protection & Safeguarding

If you have any concerns, please contact the NSEA on tel 07552 836032 / competition@nsea.co.uk to be put in contact with our designated Child Protection Officer. If you have immediate concerns, you can contact Childline tel 0800 1111 or NSPCC tel 0808 800 5000

General information

Please ensure that you do not muck out your horsebox onto the Car Park. Take all litter home with you.
All dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Any dog mess must be cleared up.

Outside assistance will not be tolerated- and could result in elimination.
NSEA affiliated competitors only may warm up & compete horses on the show ground

All competitions, parents and representatives from every school must ensure that they act courteously to stewards and officials at all times. Rudeness will not be tolerated.

In the event of cancellation, you entry will be refunded on receipt of a sae, less £5 per cheque admin fee.
Have a good day!

Rules

NSEA / BE Eventing Rules for tack & rider equipment.

NSEA General & Competition Rules 2026-27

Note- NSEA Rules- hair up please.

Start Times will be available on the NSEA website 2 days before the competition on www.nsea.org.uk

BIARRITZ DEVOUCOUX FRANCE

NSEA National Schools Equestrian Association