Hall Place Riding Group Criteria

This document outlines the criteria, expectations, and progression structure for all riding groups at Hall Place.

Lead Rein – Criteria & Lesson Focus

Overview:
This is our beginner group, designed for riders who are just starting their journey. Riders begin on the lead rein to ensure safety, confidence, and correct foundations.

Lesson Focus:

- Learning the basics of horse riding
- Developing balance and confidence at walk
- Introduction to rising trot
- Understanding simple steering and control
- Building correct early habits (rein contact, posture, transitions)

Requirements to Move Up:

- Trot independently without the lead rein
- Ride a 20m circle in trot confidently and in balance
- Show basic control and steering
- Demonstrate safe, consistent riding in walk and trot

Group Aim:
To give riders a strong, safe foundation in walk and trot so they can progress confidently into independent riding.

Green Group – Criteria & Lesson Focus (Ages 10+)

Overview:
For riders aged 10+ who are independently riding in walk and trot. Riders must be able to trot alone and ride a 20m circle confidently.

Lesson Focus:

- Developing stronger independence in trot
- Learning trot diagonals
- Developing balance in sitting trot
- Learning to canter
- Pole work for rhythm, balance, and coordination
- Building confidence on a variety of horses

Requirements to Move Up:

- Jump a wide range of horses confidently
- Show balance and control in canter transitions
- Demonstrate a basic jump position
- Understand the difference between light seat and jump seat
- Maintain consistent steering and rhythm in trot

Group Aim:
To develop riders from independent trot to confident, balanced canter work.

Orange Group – Criteria & Lesson Focus (Ages 10 and Under)

Overview:
For riders aged 10 and under who are independently riding in walk and trot. Riders must be able to trot alone and ride a 20m circle confidently.

Lesson Focus:

- Strengthening independence in trot
- Learning trot diagonals
- Developing balance in sitting trot
- Learning to canter
- Pole work for rhythm, balance, and confidence
- Encouraging adaptability on different ponies

Requirements to Move Up:

- Jump a wide range of ponies confidently
- Show balance and control in canter transitions
- Demonstrate a basic jump position
- Understand the difference between light seat and jump seat
- Maintain consistent steering and rhythm in trot

Group Aim:
To give younger riders the skills and confidence to canter safely and correctly.

Yellow Group – Criteria & Lesson Focus

Overview:
Riders must have met all Green/Orange requirements. This group introduces technical riding, early jumping skills, and accuracy in flatwork.

Lesson Focus:

- Introduction to jumping (approach, take-off, landing)
- Gridwork for rhythm, balance, and straightness
- Connecting small fences into simple courses
- Flatwork focused on accuracy, suppleness, and harmony
- Beginning to use the rider's seat to influence the horse
- Developing a secure position in all paces
- Learning prelim-level dressage test structure

Requirements to Move Up:

- Jump a wide range of horses confidently
- Ride gridwork exercises correctly
- Demonstrate prelim-level accuracy
- Show harmony, suppleness, and rhythm
- Use their seat effectively
- Perform sitting trot without stirrups in balance

Group Aim:
To prepare riders for more advanced jumping and dressage work.

Blue Group – Criteria & Lesson Focus

Overview:
Riders must have completed all Yellow requirements. This group develops technical flatwork, advanced jumping skills, and introduces cross-country concepts.

Lesson Focus:

- Riding full courses with technical lines (dog-legs, bounces, tighter turns)
- Gridwork for balance, straightness, and adjustability
- Developing accuracy in approaches and rhythm
- Flatwork for suppleness, contact, and harmony
- Basic school movements: leg yield, shoulder-in, turn on the forehand
- Introduction to extended trot
- Warming up a horse safely in open order
- Introduction to cross-country riding: simulated XC, riding different fence types

Requirements to Move Up:

- Be 16 years old or above
- Canter without stirrups in balance
- Perform basic school movements
- Warm up a horse safely for competition
- Have a horse working correctly through the back
- Use their seat effectively
- Perform a dressage test confidently
- Know and understand the Scales of Training
- Jump a full course of show jumps confidently
- Know distances between fences and adjust stride
- Walk a showjumping course and plan adjustments
- Apply cross-country foundations (fence types, terrain, safe decisions)

Group Aim:
To prepare riders for advanced jumping, dressage, and early cross-country questions.

Jump Club – Criteria & Lesson Focus (Jumping-Focused Pathway)

Overview:
For riders who have completed all Yellow requirements and want
a jumping-only pathway.

Lesson Focus:

- Riding full courses with technical elements (dog-legs, bounces, tighter lines)
- Gridwork for balance, straightness, and adjustability
- Developing rhythm, control, and confidence
- Understanding stride patterns, approaches, and course planning
- Flatwork only where it supports jumping (balance, rhythm, seat use)
- Introduction to cross-country jumping: simulated XC, fence types, varied questions

Requirements to Move Up:

- Jump a full course confidently and safely
- Ride dog-legs, bounces, and technical lines
- Know distances between fences and adjust stride
- Walk a showjumping course and plan adjustments
- Maintain a secure jumping position
- Use aids effectively for rhythm and balance
- Understand XC fence types and terrain questions
- Know the Scales of Training and apply them to jumping
- Warm up a horse safely for a jumping competition

Group Aim:
To develop confident, technically capable riders who can ride full courses safely and accurately.