

Rider Working Group Proposal

1.15 (or 1.10) Sport Pro-Am League Championships

Whilst considering what this championship looks like we have based it on what we have as our set of goals and objectives as a rider working group.

Group Goals and Objectives:

- Improvement of the sport for amateur riders
- Creation of aims for the middle pyramid of riders whether they be amateur or professional
- Tackling elitism within the sport
- Improving sport safety place by rewarding consistency of results (eg. Double clears)
- Making the sport more commercially appealing to a wider audience

Proposal: Our proposal is aimed to encourage more riders in the middle of the membership pyramid to have a series of championship, to encourage greater participation and feel included within the BE membership. Currently this middle section of riders has nothing to aspire to or work towards with any realism of true success.

This middle demographic is often made up of the following type of rider:

- The professional who has a number of horses, but maybe not the horse power (or the desire or maybe skill level) to go into the Top 150 or find that illusive 5* horse.
- The full time working rider (the “amateur”) who most likely has one or two good horses but will never wish to (or have the regularity or skills) go beyond what they have determined as their limit, be that Novice or Intermediate or the odd Advanced.
- The “amateur” who has a number of horses but don’t class themselves as a full time professional “rider”, their main income is probably from horses – livery, producing, coaching etc. and they do have some horses they ride for owners.
- The younger rider who is not aiming for Juniors or Young Riders.

All of the above we have named the “Pro-Am”. Competent riders with good horses who can and do win against the very best on a good day, they are not grassroots and they are not the Elite. In other sports this group is often referred to as the “SPORT” group or the “PRO-AM” Group.

Locations: To make this accessible to the entire geography, given that many of the demographic will be full time working people we propose a series of regional championships. Negating the need for people in far outreach locations to travel for days or stable away at great expense and use of valuable holiday allowance.

Safety: To reward consistent double clears can only help improve safety in our sport. BS reward the Pro-Am with double clears, BD reward Pro-Am with consistent % results. You don’t ever have to “win” to get to either of their Pro-Am championships. We want to see an amateur on an experienced horse learning from the horse, we want to see Schoolmasters have a goal, they help encourage safer riding.

Rider Working Group – Novice to Advanced
British Eventing

Rider Restrictions: A simple and easy to understand system is paramount, Top 200 or 150 BE league table (BE points not Foundation Points) riders as off the previous two calendar years are not eligible, we welcome discussing the cut off point. Riders who have gone round 5* in the past 10 years are not eligible regardless of rankings nor any rider who has finished in top 25% of a 4* in the past 10 years.

Horse Restrictions: We don't want to see any horse restrictions, this is because we don't want to exclude the rider who stays in their safe (happy) zone of Novice but maybe has jumped their horse out of Novice points, this to us is paramount in driving the safety of our sport. We want to give older horses the chance to step down from a Top 200/150 professional and still have a championship to aim for no matter how successful they were. We want to give horses that have been with a Top 200/150 but have now moved to an Amateur (maybe because they couldn't make the grade for the Elite rider but still amassed a lot of points up until that point). We want downgraded horses to have another chance.