



Rider assessment for first time Riders and those who have not ridden over fences or hurdles since 1st December 2016

Who will need to take part?

Either:

If you have not ridden in a Point-to-Point or a race over hurdles or fences.

OR:

If you have not ridden in a Point-to-Point or a race over hurdles or fences since 1st December 2016.

What type of assessments are available?

Riders that require an assessment prior to their application for a Riders Qualification Certificate (RQC) – according to the above criteria – have two options:

- Riders can be assessed locally by their PPA approved Jockey Coach (£30 fee)
- Riders can attend pre-determined training days to be assessed (£30 fee which is refundable upon application for an RQC)

When and where are the training days taking place?

- 28th October 2021 @ Pontispool Equine Sports Centre, Taunton
- 18th November 2021 @ British Racing School, Newmarket, CB8 7NU
- 19th December 2021 @ Tim Vaughan Racing, Cowbridge, CF71 7GX

The above training days have been kindly organised by [The British Racing School](#), [National Horseracing College](#) and [The Pony Racing Authority](#). The sessions will be led by UKCC Level 3 qualified coaches, who will assess your suitability for a Riders Qualification Certificate (RQC). There is the possibility of further training in the new year (2022).

For more information and to book your place on a training day, please contact either Carol Bramhill (carol.bramhill@brs.org.uk) or Beth Irvine (beth.irvine@brs.org.uk) at The British Racing School (01638 675907)

Are there any exemptions?

Riders who have successfully completed a Category A (Dual or Jump) or Category B permit to ride assessment since 1st December 2016 will be granted exemption.

How do I arrange a one-on-one assessment?

You will need to arrange your one-on-one assessment with a PPA approved Jockey Coach. Those assessments should take place at a mutually agreed venue between you and your Jockey Coach. There must be schooling facilities available and an open area where you can be seen riding at walk, trot and canter.

When should I get in touch with my local PPA Jockey Coach?

You should contact your local Jockey Coach at least one month prior to the intended date of your first ride.

Which Jockey Coach should I contact?

This is up to you. A list of Jockey Coaches, their location and contact details can be found by [clicking here](#)

How much will an assessment cost?

Both assessments are part-funded centrally by the PPA via BHA grant funding. There is a £30 booking fee for both the training days and one-to-one sessions, however the training day fee is refundable upon application for an RQC (the one-to-one session fee is not refundable). You will need to cover any other expenses which you may incur.

Do I need to provide my own horse?

Yes. The horse must have been accepted for inclusion in any of the following:

- 8.3.1 the Stud Book maintained by the Stud Book Authority of Great Britain and Ireland,
- 8.3.2 a Stud Book approved by the International Stud Book Committee
- 8.3.3 the Non-Thoroughbred Register, or
- 8.3.4 the Autre Que Pur Sang (AQPS Register).

Ideally you should attend on the horse you plan to ride in your first race, however this is not a mandatory requirement.

What will happen on the day and what skills will be required?

You will be observed:

- Tacking up
- Warming up
- Riding at walk, trot and canter and schooling in an open area.

You will need to demonstrate:

- That you are in control and can change the speed you are traveling by reacting to instruction.
- That you can maintain your balance and can ride with an independent seat, hands and an appropriate length of stirrup.
- That you can change your hands and gather your horse up.
- That you understand basic whip skills.
- That you understand your responsibilities regarding personal protective equipment
- That you have a basic level of fitness to enjoy the Point-to-Point experience.
- That you recognise your own limitations and capabilities.

During the session, your Coach will run through some essential Point-to-Point Regulations to ensure that you are safe. E.g. stop race and hazard ahead flags, as well as directional markers for bypassing.

There will be additional topics covered at the training days, including simulator/balance training, fitness and nutrition advice.

What if the Coach is unsure that I have met the required standard?

The assessment will be filmed. If the Coach feels that you may need further experience before race-riding, they will forward footage to a panel of racing school licence course assessors for their view. If, following review of the footage they feel you are of the standard to safely enjoy the sport, your RQC will be issued by the PPA.

What if I do not meet the required standard?

If the panel of racing school licence course assessors feel you do not meet the required standard you will be advised to undergo further training either at a recognised training centre or individually with a BHA Jockey Coach. The additional training is not grant funded and you will need to pay for this yourself.

When your coach is satisfied you have reached the required standard, they will observe you schooling and inform the PPA so that your RQC can be issued.