



Rider assessment for first time Riders and those who have not ridden over fences or hurdles since 1st December 2013

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 2013.

Will there be any exemptions?

Yes! If you have successfully completed one of the Point-to-Point training days currently held at the British Racing School or the Northern Racing College, exemption from the assessment may be granted. Training days are currently scheduled at [The British Racing School in Newmarket on 15th November and 13th December 2018](#) and at [The Northern Racing College on 25th October 2018](#).

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

How much will it cost?

The cost of the initial assessment is funded centrally by the PPA via BHA grant funding and will cost you nothing. You will need to cover any other expenses which you may incur.

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 Coach should I contact?

This is up to you. A list of Coaches, their location and contact details can be found on the national website (About-Information For Riders)

Where will the assessments take place?

The assessments will 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.

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-Pont experience.
- That you recognise your own limitations and capabilities.

During the schooling 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.

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.

"I would like to ride
in a point-to-point
for the first time,
where do I start?!"

STAGE 1

6 weeks

Download an RQC application form and BHA Medical Form from the national point-to-point website (*About-Downloads*)

If you already hold a Cat A/B Permit you may already have a valid medical, please check with the BHA Medical Department 0207 152 0000

Contact your local PPA Jockey Coach, contact details can be found on the national point-to-point website (*About-Information For Riders*)

Arrange for you and your horse to meet with them for a schooling session. An RQC can not be issued until a successful assessment has taken place

Book your medical with your GP. Common mistakes in completing the form can be found on the national point-to-point website (*About-Information For Riders*)

Complete RQC application form. This should be signed by the nominated Hunt signatory. A list of nominated signatories can be found on the national point-to-point website (*About-Information For Riders*)

STAGE 2

3 weeks

Send completed forms to the PPA

Jockey Coach will inform the PPA you have successfully attended a schooling session and that you are capable to enjoy the sport safely

STAGE 3

1 week

The PPA will issue you with your Riders Qualification Certificate (RQC) and a Medical Record Book (MRB) if you do not already hold one

STAGE 4

Race Day - Enjoy!