

ICE- what is it exactly?

Welcome to the newest Scotia Series competition format, ICE- I Can Event. ICE is designed to introduce riders to the world of eventing. Eventing is a three phase Olympic discipline that includes a dressage test, cross country endurance test and show jumping test. At the highest levels events take place over 3 to 4 days, whereas at the lower and mid-levels all three phases are completed within 1 to 2 days and are referred to as horse trials. ICE competitions offer a dressage phase and either a cross-country, showjumping, or hybrid model of the two, as the jumping phase. When 2 out of three phases form a competition, they are referred to as combined tests. ICE competitions are combined tests, not horse trials or events- they are a great introduction to the world of eventing!

The cross country test is the phase that sets eventing, horse trials and ICE competitions apart from other equestrian disciplines. In a cross country test riders and horses complete a course of fixed obstacles over undulating terrain as close to a set optimum time as possible. Cross country jumps are often designed to reflect the natural landscape and may be logs, ditches, coops, roll tops, or embankments. Fixed obstacles means that they are staked in place and will not roll, slide or fall down should a horse knock it. Course designers use these obstacles and the natural terrain to design questions that test the riders ability to adjust their horse's stride length, speed, and balance when needed and to canter or gallop a set distance at a steady pace to finish as close to the optimum time as possible. Penalties are given if a horse refuses or runs-out from an obstacle, and if the horse exceeds the optimum time. Excessive speed is also penalized. A detailed breakdown of penalties for each phase is in the EC Eventing Rulebook and is often summarized in individual competition prize lists.

ICE introduces riders to two of the three phases in a compressed format. Riders complete a flat or dressage test, and then a jumping phase. An ICE competition jumping phase may be a pure show jumping course- coloured poles and fillers in a sand or grass ring within a time allowed, or a cross-country phase- natural fixed obstacles over rolling terrain with an optimum time- or a hybrid model where teams complete some show jumps and then cross-country jumps. For example, in a hybrid model teams may start in the ring and jump 6 or 7 show jumps, then leave the ring and complete the course with 3 or 4 cross country jumps. ICE competitions reflect the most current rules and penalties for each phase as outlined in the EC Eventing Rulebook.

Scoring is based on a penalty system, penalties are incurred for refusals, run-outs, knocked rails, and exceeding the optimum time. Penalties are incurred for excessive speed as well. In the dressage phase, the test is scored, and the final score is converted to penalties so at the end of the day the competitor with the fewest penalties, or lowest score, wins the division. This table is an overview of jumping penalties:

Type of Jump	Disobedience/ Refusals/Changing height of jump	Time
Fixed Cross Country obstacles	1st refusal= 20 penalties 2nd refusal at same obstacle=20 more penalties 3rd refusal at same obstacle = Elimination Any fall of horse/rider= elimination, riders may NOT re-mount.	0.4 penalties/second over the optimum time (shared on course map at competition) 1.0 penalty for each second <u>under</u> the speed fault time. (calculate speed fault time by dividing the distance of your course on the course map by the pace of the level above that you are competing at)
Show Jumping obstacles	1st refusal= 4 penalties 2nd refusal=8 penalties 3rd refusal= elimination Rail down=4 penalties Any fall of horse/rider=Elimination, riders may NOT re-mount.	0.4 penalties per second over the time allowed The time limit is double the time allowed, if the time limit is exceeded it results in elimination.

Equestrian Nova Scotia is offering two ICE competitions this summer, Clay Hill Combined Test on June 22, 2024, and Red Ridge Combined Test on July 28, 2024. Both competitions will offer the dressage test and a hybrid model jumping test that begins with show jumps in a sand ring and finishes with cross country jumps outside of the ring on gently sloping grass terrain. Fixed Cross Country obstacles riders can expect to see may include logs, small coops, shallow ditches, and low embankments. Required equipment for the jumping phase is an ASTM approved helmet and an ASTM approved body protector vest. While the body protector vest does represent an investment in safety, riders looking to try an ICE competition who do not yet own a vest are encouraged to reach out to fellow competitors or competition organizers to see if any are available to borrow for the competition.

ICE is an Equine Canada pilot program which aims to help grass root development of the eventing discipline in Canada. Provincial Sport Authorities can sanction ICE competitions that meet the parameters and as such competitors may accrue points towards end of series awards. HTNS and ENS are happy to help answer any questions you may have about this exciting new program in development!