

The IQHA Fancy Dress Fun Class Rules 2026

FREESTYLE FANCY DRESS FUN CLASS

This is a fun, themed performance class combining basic ridden work with fancy dress presentation. The emphasis is on safety, creativity, and entertainment.

1. GENERAL FORMAT - Adults and Youth classes:

- **Freestyle fancy dress performance class – Ridden or in hand.**
 - Entry may include up to a maximum of two additional performers on foot, fancy dress optional but encouraged.
 - Focus on:
 - Safe riding and control
 - Basic ridden work
 - Choreography and presentation
 - Entertainment value
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2. REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Each competitor must demonstrate:

- Walk in both directions – ridden or in hand is permitted.
- Jog/trot in both directions
- Show at least one back up
- Show at least one circle

Transitions and changes of direction should be shown in a clear and controlled manner.
Lope/canter is optional

3. TIME LIMIT

- Maximum performance time: **3.5 minutes**
 - Timing begins when the performance starts (music or first movement)
 - Minimum time **1.5 minutes**
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4. MUSIC

- Music is **optional but strongly encouraged**
 - Riders are encouraged to select music that supports their theme and enhances the performance. Music must be suitable for a family audience
 - Acceptable formats
 - CD
 - Bluetooth connection to arena sound system
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5. COSTUMES (FANCY DRESS)

- Costumes are encouraged but not required
 - Must be:
 - Safe for horse and rider/handler
 - Securely fitted (no loose or trailing parts that may cause danger)
 - Not obstructing the horse's vision, breathing, or movement
 - Horse and rider /handler must remain under safe control at all times
 - Show officials may remove or alter any costume deemed unsafe
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6. PROPS

- Props are permitted
 - Must be:
 - Safe, lightweight, and easily managed on horseback
 - Not frightening to horses or spectators
 - Props must not compromise safety or control
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7. CHOREOGRAPHY & PRESENTATION

Riders are encouraged to:

- Plan a routine that matches their chosen theme or music
 - Use the arena space effectively and safely
 - Show smooth transitions between walk and jog/trot work
 - Create a performance that is enjoyable and easy to follow for spectators
 - Demonstrate creativity and originality in presentation
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8. SCORING

Each performance will be judged on the following:

1. Riding Skills & Control

- Correct and consistent work in walk, jog/trot and lope/canter (if applicable).
- Smooth transitions
- Overall control and harmony with the horse

2. Choreography

- Planning and structure of the performance
- Use of arena space

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- Timing and coordination with music (if used)
- Flow and continuity of the routine

3. Presentation & Creativity

- Originality of idea or theme
- Costume design and suitability
- Use of music and props to enhance performance

4. Entertainment Value

- Overall impact on the audience
- Suitability for a family show environment
- Engagement and clarity of performance

Each category will be scored and combined for a final result. Judges may use a scale that rewards quality, creativity, and safety equally.

9. SAFETY / ELIMINATION

A competitor may be eliminated for:

- Dangerous riding or loss of control
 - Unsafe tack, costume, or equipment
 - Falling off that creates a safety concern
 - Exceeding the 3.5-minute time limit
 - Any action deemed unsafe by judges or show officials
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10. SHOW MANAGEMENT

- Show management reserves the right to refuse music, costumes, or props deemed unsafe, inappropriate, or unsuitable for a family audience
 - All decisions made in the interest of safety and fairness are final
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