

The Meaning of Colours whilst Competing

We have all trotted round the working in and I'm sure we have noticed the rider in front of us wearing a coloured armband or the horse wearing a coloured ribbon in its tail. Let's be honest we notice, but do we actually know the meaning of the different colours?

Area 9 think that it is very important for us to know the meanings, which in turn will make us more aware of other riders' disabilities, which are not always visible. The coloured indicators might indicate that the horse needs a larger passing space or maybe you need to stay away completely!!!

Armbands

A rider wearing an armband is simply to let other riders & stewards know that they have a hidden disability. This is purely to keep everyone in the working in safe and aware and in no way gives that rider an advantage in the competition.



Royal Blue

This armband is worn by riders who have impaired hearing or are deaf. This rider will not be able to hear you when you are right behind them needing to pass. They may not be able to hear the steward calling their name and number.

It's very easy for us to quickly assume riders are being rude in the working in, but please be mindful that this rider may not be able to hear you !

White Armband



This armband is worn by riders who are visually impaired. This rider will have limited vision and you will need to give them extra space when passing them and be very careful not to suddenly stop when they are behind you, as they may not be able to see you until the last minute.

These riders usually have a caller at the side of the working in and in the competition arena. The caller's job is to shout where the markers are and to let the rider know who is around them and how many horse are in the working in. The caller for these riders is very important, so we need to be respectful and allow them to do their job as well as understanding the armband meaning.



Sunflower armband

This armband is now being used in British Dressage competitions. It has been used in a wide range of places other than sports. Airports, office environments and schools have all been using this since 2016. This band lets us know that the rider has a hidden disability such as a chronic illness, mental health issues, or they just need to be given a little more time and understanding.

By taking a little time to understand the meaning of these armbands, we will make the working in safer and maybe help a rider to feel included and understood.

