



SHOW RULE BOOK

of The Australian Miniature Horse Society Incorporated



Australian Miniature Horse Society (AMHS)
Australian Miniature Pony Registry (AMPR)
American Shetland Pony of Australia Registry (ASPA)
Australian Show Horse Foundation Registry (ASFR)

www.amhs.com.au



The Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc desires to set standards relating to ethics and sportsmanship to be observed by persons showing and judging horses at shows conducted by the Society.

All Competitors, Show Officials and Judges should be familiar with all sections of this Rule Book originally approved by the National Committee of Management of the Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc on 30th May, 2011.

Judges and Competitors should be aware that the Rules of the Show, if any, take precedence. Failing this the AMHS Inc Rule Book is the standard for all Judges, Exhibitors, Competitors and Show Officials at AMHS Inc Shows.

Our aim in publishing Rule Book is to provide a helpful educational compendium for all involved in the Miniature Horse Show scene, as well as enunciating Rules to be followed.

National Committee of Management

AMHS Inc.

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Information included in this document in "*Italic Font*" may denote a trial implementation and or rule improvement in a temporary capacity (to be ratified) in the best interests of the association, its members and the overall continuity of operations.





Definitions

For the purposes of these Rules and those using them the following terms are defined:

"THE SOCIETY" means the Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc.

"AMHS" The Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc.

"ASSOCIATION" means a Registry, Society or any Association as referred to under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and or the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010 and shall mean Society in relation to AMHS Inc

"REGISTER" means the Register of the Society including AMHS/AMPR/ASPA &/or ASFR.

"STANDARD" means the statement of ideal conformation of a Miniature or Small Horse and the Standard of Excellence thereof promulgated by the Society from time to time.

"STUD BOOK" means the Stud Book of the approved Societies.

"SHOW GRADINGS" Society shows will be graded as to importance by the National Committee of Management. Until otherwise advised show gradings will consist of the following: AAA; AA; and A class shows.

"GENERAL MEETING" means the meeting called by the National Committee of Management from time to time to discuss any matter considered relevant. Minimum notice required for any such meeting is thirty (30) days.

"EXHIBIT" is a horse registered by the AMHS or another recognised Miniature Horse Association correctly entered in the show.

"CORRECTLY ENTERED" means that the owner/lessee details must match the Registration Certificate etcetera

"EXHIBITOR" of any Show means the person on whose behalf and in whose name the Certificate of entry is lodged. The handler is not necessarily the Exhibitor

"YOUTH EXHIBITOR" a person who, at the close of show entry date has not turned 18 years of age.

"OWNER" means the person who is noted in the records of the Society or other recognized Miniature Horse Association as the owner or lessee of the Exhibit.

"SHOW AGE" The Show Age of all horses to be calculated as from 1st August. Every horse foaled before 1st August in any year shall be deemed to be one year old on that date (including imported horses).

"HEIGHT FOR AGE" *The age of all horses for the purposes of measuring is to be calculated from their 1st August birth date.*

"HORSE" unless otherwise stated refers to all eligible breeds within the Registries maintained by the Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc. (AMHS/AMPR/ASPA/ASFR Registries) and includes Horse, Pony and American Shetland.

"IMMEDIATE FAMILY" shall include the following - husband, wife, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, in-laws, grand-parents, de-facto relations, brother, sister and persons co-habiting.

"TRIPLE A (AAA) SHOW" means either the AMHS Inc. Grand National and AMHS Inc. World Show.

"DOUBLE A (AA) SHOW" means each States Annual State HOTY (Horse Of The Year) Championship Show.

"A CLASS SHOW" means all other AMHS Inc. Championship Shows.

"OPEN SHOW" means a show which accepts entries from Non AMHS Members and/or horses registered with with other Societies.

"CLOSED SHOW" means show is for AMHS Members and/or AMHS Inc registered horses only.

"VESTED INTEREST" bred, sold, owned, leased or trained a horse within the period of 3 months prior to the show.

"OFFICIAL INDEPENDENT WITNESS" Is a person who does not have a vested interest in the horse. The horse is not owned by his/her immediate family.

"AMPR" means Australian Miniature Pony Registry

"ASPA" means American Shetland Pony of Australia

Registry **"ASFR"** means Australian Show Horse Foundation
Registry

"NOVICE" means handlers or exhibits that have not won a champion award at an equivalent event

"NEW COMER" is the equivalent of a learner handler and or driver



Breed Standards of Perfection

(AMHS, AMPR, ASPA, ASFR)

AMHS REGISTRY - Standard of Perfection

Size: The Australian Miniature Horse must measure not more than 34 inches at the base of the last hair of the mane for a Miniature Horse and not more than 38 inches at the base of the last hair of the mane for a Small Horse.

Head: In proportion to length of neck and body. Broad forehead with large prominent eyes set wide apart. Comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle. Profile straight or slightly concave below the eyes. Large nostrils. Clean, refined.

Teeth: An even bite is necessary with no more than 3mm out. Overshot or parrot mouth is a disqualification.

Ears: Medium in size. Pointed. Carried alertly with tips curving slightly inward.

Throat-Latch: Clean and well defined allowing ample flexion at the poll.

Neck: Flexible, lengthy, in proportion to body and type and blending smoothly into the withers.

Shoulder: Long, sloping and well angulated, allowing a free-swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage. Well-muscled forearm.

Body: Well muscled with ample bone and substance. Balanced and well proportioned. Short back and loins in relation to length of underline. Smooth and generally level top-line. Deep girth and flank. Trim barrel.

Hindquarters: Long, well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers, Tail set neither excessively high or low, but smoothly rounding off rump.

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Legs: Lengthy and slender in proportion to the rest of the body. Set straight and parallel when viewed from front or back. Straight, true and squarely set, when viewed from the side with hooves pointing directly ahead. Pasterns sloping about 45 degrees and blending smoothly, with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground. Hooves to be round and compact. Trimmed as short as practicable for an unshod horse.

Gait: Smooth, fluid gait in motion. Naturally free moving.

Colour: Any colour or marking pattern, and any eye colour, is equally acceptable. The coat should be lustrous and silky.

Temperament: Good temperament is of the utmost importance – curious, alert, intelligent and friendly. Poor or vicious temperament is considered a fault.

Disqualifications: Any horse may be refused registration or disqualified from registration for any of the following:

- a) Not meeting the necessary height requirements;
- b) Dwarfism;
- c) Overshot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- d) Undershot or parrot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- e) Monorchids or cryptorchids in stallions;
- f) Lock stifle, congenital cataract, navicular disease, or malformation of the genitals;
- g) Any other determinable genetic fault.



Australian Miniature Pony (AMPR)- Standard of Perfection

Size: Must measure 87cms or under, measured at the highest point of the wither (Appendix Ponies are over 87cm not exceeding 91.5cm in height. The pony must stand naturally with head held in a natural position and all four hoofs standing squarely on the ground (not stretched).

Head: Comparatively small; head well in proportion to the rest of the body; profile straight or slightly concave (dished) below eyes; comparatively small muzzle, round expressive eyes set well apart, comparatively short distance between eye and muzzle.

Teeth: An even bite is necessary with no more than 3mm out. Overshot or parrot mouth is a disqualification.

Ears: Small to Medium Size.

Neck: Lightly crested on mares and moderately crested on stallions. The length of the neck will be proportional to the body.

Body: Should have well sprung ribs, a generous girth, a slight natural curve in the back and a strong well rounded rump; the whole body shall present a picture of balance and shall be in proportion for the height. The body should not be coarse or overlong.

Legs: Straight, true and squarely set, straight sound flat bone, strong forearm, short cannon bone, strong sloping pasterns.

Gait: Should be smooth showing free flexion of the joints without exaggeration.

Colour: Any colour or marking pattern, and any eye colour, is equally acceptable. The coat should be lustrous and silky.

Temperament: Good temperament is of the utmost importance – curious, alert, intelligent and friendly. Poor or vicious temperament is considered a fault.

Disqualifications: Any pony may be refused registration or disqualified from registration for any of the following:

- a) Not meeting the necessary height requirements;
- b) Dwarfism;
- c) Overshot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- d) Undershot or parrot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- e) Monorchids or cryptorchids in stallions;
- f) Lock stifle, congenital cataract, nasal disease, navicular disease, or malformation of the genitals;
- g) Any other determinable genetic fault.



American Shetland Pony of Australia (ASPA) - Standard of Perfection

The American Shetland Pony has a well-proportioned body that maintains the strong Shetland constitution; a pony with substance in the chest, body and hindquarters. The short head is clean cut, with a fine muzzle, large nostrils, prominent eyes, wide forehead and sharp, small well set ears. The American Shetland possesses fineness of throatlatch, length of neck in proportion to the body and a sloping shoulder. The legs are set properly under the body on the four corners, forearm well muscled, knee and cannon bone broad and well defined, with an ideally shaped pastern with proper size and angle of pastern and foot. The top line of the American Shetland is straight, back short, loin short and well muscled. The tail is set high on the croup. The body has plenty of depth, well rounded buttocks and well muscled gaskins. The ribs should be well sprung; pony should have a round barrel. The knees and hocks are well supported from below by strong short cannons, joints and hooves. The mane, foretop and tail are full. The coat is fine and silky. The American Shetland has a natural, straight and springy way of going.

81. Breed Standard of Perfection

Size: The Breed is split into two height categories, Under must not exceed 42" and Over must not exceed 46".

Head: small, short and clean cut, well set on the neck and tapering from wide set eyes to the muzzle.

Ears: small, alert, and expressive, set well up on head and delicately curving to a tip.

Eyes: expressive, large, bold and luminous, placed well down from base of head, wide apart and prominent on side of head. Placement of eyes should give the head a diamond shape view from the front.

Forehead: wide and smooth

Face: slightly concave (dished) preferred, but a straight profile is permissible.

Nose: narrow but flat, blends into muzzle with gentle curve.

Teeth: an even bite is necessary with no more than 3mm out in adult stock.

Nostrils: prominent and open on a small and refined muzzle.

Muzzle: small and refined, large nostrils and firm lips.

Throat: fine and pronounced; the insertion of the neck into the head should be horizontal to give a fine rounded throat latch and an arched neck with the head carried high.

Neck: must be proportionate to the body. The neck should be well carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, without excessive crest; but inclined to be slightly crested in the case of mature stallions. A broken crest shall be considered a fault.

Angle of Neck: The angle of the neck coming out of the shoulder should be from 45 to 60 degrees. The ideal angle of the neck on the halter pony should not exceed 60degrees.

Point of Shoulder: pronounced, setting well forward at approximately 45degree angle from the withers.

Withers: clearly defined and narrow, but not pronounced. Should give pleasing blend to back and neck.

Hindquarters: well muscled hips.

Legs: should be straight and not turned out or in.

Tail: should spring from the line of the back (high tail set). Tail should be long and full.

Croup: There should be a pleasing, gentle curve, but comparatively speaking, it is a horizontal croup. Viewed from behind, the croup should be oval, not broad and flat and not come to a point.

Back: short and wide, not flat, but in proportion to the neck of the pony.

Hooves: hard and dense, wider at the base than at the coronary band, heels open and angle that of the pastern. Should toe straight, not turned in or out.

Ribs: for feed capacity, endurance and appearance a pony must be well ribbed. There must be a combination of breed character or quality and the good spring of ribs for which the Shetland has been noted for centuries. The ribs should be extended back as close as possible to the point of the hip. In other words the pony should have a rounded barrel.



Movement: free true and forcibly straight forward; the walk should be relaxed; the trot should show freedom of movement, open and reaching covering ground when asked. Stiff legged extension or lack of freedom of movement to be faulted.

Soundness: As a minimum requirement, all Shetlands must be serviceably sound for show and breeding purposes. Any pony showing evidence of lameness, deformity in feet, or broken wind shall be faulted. Complete or partial loss of sight in either eye will not be a disqualification if the loss of sight results from

a traumatic injury. A licensed veterinarian must verify the deltiology of the sight loss as traumatic and such copy must accompany the horse's papers.

Temperament: a good settled temperament without appearing dull or bored. Pony should be alert, showy and eye catching. Forgiving in foals.

Colour: any colour is acceptable as an ASPA Derivative but Appaloosa/Pintalossa is not acceptable in the Pure Bred American Shetland.

Disqualifications: Any pony may be refused registration or disqualified from registration for any of the following:

- a) Not meeting the necessary height requirements;
- b) Dwarfism;
- c) Overshot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- d) Undershot or parrot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- e) Monorchids or cryptorchids in stallions;
- f) Lock stifle, congenital cataract, nasal disease, navicular disease, or malformation of the genitals;
- g) Any other determinable genetic fault.

Australian Show Horse Foundation (ASFR) – Standard of Perfection

A sound, well-balanced horse, possessing the correct conformation characteristics required of most breeds. The foundation show horse should show refinement and femininity in the mare. Boldness and masculinity in the stallion at the same time showing an impeccable temperament. The general impression should be one of symmetry, strength, agility and alertness.

Breed Standard of Perfection

Size: The Registry is split into two height categories, Little Horse and Small Foundation.

Head: In proportion to length of neck and body. Broad forehead with large prominent eyes set wide apart. Comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle. Profile straight or slightly concave below the eyes. Large nostrils. Clean, refined.

Teeth: An even bite is necessary with no more than 3mm out. Overshot or parrot mouth is a disqualification.

Ears: Medium in size. Pointed. Carried alertly with tips curving slightly inward.

Throat-Latch: Clean and well defined allowing ample flexion at the poll.

Neck: Flexible, lengthy, in proportion to body and type and blending smoothly into the withers.

Shoulder: Long, sloping and well angulated, allowing a free-swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage. Well-muscled forearm.

Body: Well muscled with ample bone and substance. Balanced and well proportioned. Short back and loins in relation to length of underline. Smooth and generally level top-line. Deep girth and flank. Trim barrel.

Hindquarters: Long, well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers, Tail set neither excessively high or low, but smoothly rounding off rump.



Legs: Lengthy and slender in proportion to the rest of the body. Set straight and parallel when viewed from front or back. Straight, true and squarely set, when viewed from the side with hooves pointing directly ahead. Pasterns sloping about 45 degrees and blending smoothly, with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground. Hooves to be round and compact. Trimmed as short as practicable for an unshod horse.

Gait: Smooth, fluid gait in motion. Naturally free moving.

Colour: Any colour or marking pattern, and any eye colour, is equally acceptable. The coat should be lustrous and silky.

Temperament: Good temperament is of the utmost importance – curious, alert, intelligent and friendly. Poor or vicious temperament is considered a fault.

Legs: Lengthy and slender in proportion to the rest of the body. Set straight and parallel when viewed from front or back. Straight, true and squarely set, when viewed from the side with hooves pointing directly ahead. Pasterns sloping about 45 degrees and blending smoothly, with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground. Hooves to be round and compact. Trimmed as short as practicable for an unshod horse.

Gait: Smooth, fluid gait in motion. Naturally free moving.

Colour: Any colour or marking pattern, and any eye colour, is equally acceptable. The coat should be lustrous and silky.

Temperament: Good temperament is of the utmost importance – curious, alert, intelligent and friendly. Poor or vicious temperament is considered a fault.

Disqualifications: Any horse may be refused registration or disqualified from registration for any of the following:

- a) Not meeting the necessary height requirements;
- b) Dwarfism;
- c) Overshot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- d) Undershot or parrot mouth (3mm maximum allowable);
- e) Monorchids or cryptorchids in stallions;
- f) Lock stifle, congenital cataract, navicular disease, or malformation of the genitals;
- g) Any other determinable genetic fault.



RULE 1 PRESENTATION FOR SHOWING

Presentation of the horse for showing at any AMHS Inc. event will be at the discretion of the owner, but the horse must be shown to its best possible visual and health advantage at all times, in order to positively promote the Breed.

Permissible methods of presentation for showing at an AMHS Inc. event are:

- a) CLIPPING AND TRIMMING:** Horses which are shown with ears and tactile hairs unclipped and with a full mane shall be judged on their merits and are not to be penalised. Removal of facial tactile hairs and trimming of ears and mane is optional but eyelashes should not be removed. Horses that are shown in full coat are not to be penalised. The horses coat can be presented in the following:
- i)** In a natural condition; or
 - ii)** Clipped with the new coat established; or
 - iii)** Freshly clipped, as long as in all of the above, the horse is neat, healthy and well presented.
- b) MANES & TAILS:** are to be shown as per applicable Breed Rules (refer Part 7,8,9 &/or 10 of Constitution).
- c) HOOVES:** Hooves are to be unshod/shod as per applicable Breed Rules (refer Part 7,8,9 &/or 10 of Constitution).
- d) COLOUR ENHANCE:** Colour Enhance products are not to be used to alter/change the horses natural body colour (eg bay to black), but can be used to enhance the horses natural body colour. The Horses colours/markings will be recorded on AMHS Inc. Certificate of Registration and will be checked at each AMHS Inc. event.
- e) MARKINGS:** No markings (spots, blazes, stars etc) are to be altered, attempted to be hidden or changed in any way (by way of surgery, dye or any other manner). Markings will be recorded on Registration of Certificates and used to help identify horses at AMHS Inc. events.

RULE 2 ELIGIBILITY FOR SHOWING

2.1 AMHS Inc. Shows: AMHS Inc. can run either open or closed shows. Conditions of Entries advertised with each Show Program and Entry form are final and take precedence. All horses must be registered with either AMHS Inc. or an approved AMHS recognised Miniature Horse Association/Society if accepted. Closed shows will only accept AMHS Inc. Owners/Members and all Handlers must be current financial Member of AMHS Inc. Closed shows may also only accept AMHS Inc. Registered Horses (Competitors must read Conditions of Entries attached to advertised Show Entries). Open Shows allow Owners and Handlers to be a financial Member with another recognised miniature Society/Association to enter, however Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry at any time. Any person's who have been refused Membership &/or privileges to AMHS Inc. are not permitted to enter and attend any AMHS Inc. event (including Open Shows/Events unless National Committee advise otherwise in writing). For any AMHS Inc show, registration numbers and date of birth are to be stated for all Exhibits on entry forms. Horses may only compete in classes for the section of which they meet the height for age requirements, with the exception of Purebred American Shetlands and Purebred Miniature/Appendix Ponies who may only compete in their own breed sections, unless otherwise advertised by Committee.



- 2.2 STALLIONS:** Stallions three years old and over must be entire (unless breeding has occurred earlier, then a Certificate of Soundness must be provided/on file with Society at that time), with two visible testicles and have a Certificate of Soundness on file with AMHS Inc. If the Certificate of Soundness is on file with another AMHS approved recognised Association/Society, a copy of this will need to be returned to office with the original AMHS Inc. registration certificate for upgrading and noted on new Registration Certificate (all COS are to be held on file with AMHS Inc and are recorded on Registration Certificates as on file). Stallions may be bitted but the bit used must be nylon, rubber or vulcanite.
- 2.3 FOAL / WEANLING CLASSES:** Weanlings and Foals must be led in a suitable strong show halter, with either a chain or leather strap. Clipping and Trimming as per Rule 1.A. All foals must be a minimum of four (4) months old, from their actual birth date, to be allowed to compete at an AMHS Inc. show.
- 2.4 BROODMARES:** *Broodmare classes may be offered at AMHS Inc shows at the discretion of the committee.*
- 2.5 OPEN HALTER CLASSES:** *Open halter classes at AMHS Shows are open to all horses that meet the height for age requirements for miniature, small horse, little horse & small foundation. Purebred American Shetlands & Miniature/Appendix Ponies who have their own breed sections are not eligible to compete in open halter classes unless otherwise specified by the committee.*
- 2.6 DRUGS, BANNED SUBSTANCES, AIDS & IRRITANTS**
- a)** The use of stimulants, performance enhancing substances (including but not limited to any and all drugs that have an anabolic/steroidal effect), depressants or any drug affecting the showing of a horse/pony in a halter or performance event is strictly forbidden. Penalties for positive evidence of such drugging will include barring of the exhibitor, owner or trainer from both the event (including removal of any awards) at which the horse/pony returned a positive test result and future AMHS Inc events for a period to be determined by the committee of management;
 - b)** It is a condition of entry to all AMHS events that swabbing may take place. Exhibitors must present horses or ponies for testing within 30 minutes of the request from the Show Committee.
 - c)** Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified
 - d)** No horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show. Similarly, no horse having had surgery to correct faults will be permitted to show
 - e)** Ribbons, braids, all decorative appurtenances and stallion tack (excluding bits) are not allowed in halter and conformation classes.
 - f)** No pads, wedges, chains, nor weighted ankle boots are permitted



RULE 3 HEIGHT FOR AGE REQUIREMENTS

all horses & ponies are to be measured from their 1st August Birth Date

all horses are to be measured from the last hair of the mane (excluding purebred American Shetlands & Miniature/Appendix Ponies)

3.1 Miniature Horse Height For Age Requirements (AMHS)

WEANLINGS - Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 30" in height

YEARLINGS - Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 32" in height

TWO YEAR OLDS - Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 33" in height

MATURE HORSES - Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 34" in height

3.2 Small Horse Height For Age Requirements (AMHS)

WEANLINGS - Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 34" in height

YEARLINGS - Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 36" in height

TWO YEAR OLDS - Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 37" in height

MATURE HORSES - Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 38" in height

3.3 Little Horse Height For Age Requirements (ASFR)

WEANLINGS - Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 38" in height

YEARLINGS - Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 40" in height

TWO YEAR OLDS - Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 41" in height.

MATURE HORSES - Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 42" in height.

3.4 Small Foundation Height for Age Requirements (ASFR)

WEANLINGS - Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 44" in height

YEARLINGS - Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 46" in height

TWO YEAR OLDS - Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 48" in height

MATURE HORSES - Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 50" in height

3.5 Purebred American Shetland (ASPA)

"UNDER" Category Height for Age Requirements

WEANLINGS - Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 38" in height

YEARLINGS - Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 40" in height

TWO YEAR OLDS - Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 41" in height

MATURE HORSES - Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 42" in height

"OVER" Category Height for Age Requirements (ASPA)

WEANLINGS - Horses up to and not including 12 months of age shall not exceed 40" in height

YEARLINGS - Horses 12 months up to and not including 24 months of age shall not exceed 42" in height

TWO YEAR OLDS - Horses 24 months up to and not including 36 months of age shall not exceed 44" in height

MATURE HORSES - Horses 36 months and over shall not exceed 46" in height



3.6 Miniature & Appendix Pony Height For Age Requirements (AMPR)

The Australian Miniature Pony (AMPR) shall be measured at the highest point of the wither. The pony must stand naturally with all four hoofs standing squarely on the ground. The AMPR shall recognize two height divisions

Miniature Pony Height Requirements

ALL AGES - Australian Miniature Pony must not exceed 87cms irrespective of age

Any Pony upon their four-year-old (Adult) measurement that records a height of 85cms or more is to be re-measured at age six years and before reaching age seven years

Appendix Pony Height Requirements

ALL AGES - Appendix Ponies are over 87cm not exceeding 91.5cm in height irrespective of age

Any Appendix Pony upon their four-year-old (Adult) measurement that records a height of 89.5cms or more is to be re-measured at age six years and before reaching age seven years

3.7 *The show age of the horse is determined from as at August 1st*

Explanation Note: A horse born on the 1/1/2010 for showing purposes only, turns one (1) year old on the 1/8/2010 (recognized worldwide as the horses birthday) and would have to show in a yearling class if shown after that date, even though it is physically only 8 mths of age. *The horse/pony is therefore also to be measured as at the 1st August birth date.*

- 3.8** Horses holding Permanent Registration and aged five (5) years or older may hold a Permanent Height Recording card which will be valid for the life of the horse from the date of measurement. Any horse holding a Height Recording Card does not need to be measured at AMHS Inc shows (unless otherwise advertised by Committee) provided that the Height Recording Card is presented at each show.

The exception to this rule, is in the case of a show, offering "Entries on the day"

a) Where all horses who are entering on the day of the show (ie: after the advertised closing date for entries, therefore are not pre-entered) must be measured regardless of whether they hold a Height Recording Card or not. (Pre-entered horses may still use their Height Recording Card if they are simply adding or entering another class.)

- 3.9** Height Recording Cards can only be issued by an Official Measurer (someone nominated by National Committee for that purpose) and witnessed by two independent members. The Official Measurer and the two independent Members must verify and sign the Height Recording Card. The horse must be measured in accordance with AMHS Inc height for age rules.

- 3.10** All horses regardless of those holding a Permanent Height Card may be required to be measured at any AMHS event if advised by Committee



Rule 4 Show Procedure

- 4.1 MANAGEMENT:** State Committees and the National Committee of Management shall have jurisdiction over preparing and mailing/publishing online all entry forms and catalogues and insurance declarations. Management shall have the authority to enforce all rules referring to the Show or Contest and may disqualify any horse or Exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging, for cruelty or abuse of a horse or because of unsportsmanlike or aggressive behaviour. Management shall at all times make every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, the Exhibitors, the Spectators and the Officials throughout the Show.
- 4.2 CLOSING DATE OF ENTRIES:** Where closing dates apply, entries must be either submitted online via the AMHS Inc. website (if available) or mailed to the advertised postal address on or before the closing date. If entries are postmarked with the closing date they will be accepted.
- 4.3 ENTRY FEES:** Entry fees as set out in the Schedule of Classes or on the Entry Form will apply. Refund of Entry Fees will not be made after closing date of entries. If extenuating circumstances exist then Members may apply to Committee for consideration of a refund.
- 4.4 IDENTIFICATION OF EXHIBITS:** All horses must be able to be identified by either their brands or microchip number in accordance with the Certificate of Registration issued by the Society. Registration papers will be checked regarding markings because change of coat colour or adding/deleting white markings is prohibited and may result in disqualification. Coat colour refers to the colour of the horse in natural unclipped coat.
- 4.5 EXHIBIT NUMBERS:** Where entries have been allocated an Exhibit number, the Exhibit or handler/driver must display the correct Exhibit number at all times in each event.
- 4.6 AUTHORITY OF SHOW COMMITTEE:** Where entries are small it is acceptable to combine classes. This is usually done on a basis of height for age. This would not be acceptable for AA Class Shows where these classes must be offered. The Committee reserves the right to:
- a) Reject or cancel any entry at any time;
 - b) Prohibit the participation by any person or Exhibit in any event or class for which it is entered;
 - c) Cancel, combine or divide any event or class;
 - d) Alter the time at which any class or event is to take place;
 - e) Transfer an Exhibit from any class to any other class;
 - f) Act upon any report of cruelty to any Exhibit on the Show ground. Clause b) above may be invoked.
- 4.7 STIRRING:** Exhibits are not to be excessively stirred-up. Horses must remain calmly in the marshalling area with a maximum of one handler/driver and one groom until they enter the ring at a walk or a trot. No devices, artificial gadgets or loud noises shall be used to excite waiting horses. This rule also applies to other persons on the outside of the ring or marshalling area. Exhibits who are excessively excited may be asked to leave the ring or marshalling area and will not be judged. Persons failing to obey this rule may have their

Exhibit disqualified from the class. Handlers are not to incite stallions to challenge by facing them up to each other or crowding them. The facing up of stallions is strictly prohibited. WHIP ABUSE OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.



4.8 DRUG TESTING: Random drug testing of Exhibits may be carried out at any AMHS Inc show. If a positive test is returned penalties will apply.

4.9 MATURE HORSE MEASUREMENT: At any AMHS Inc. Show a mature horse will be allowed two measurements. After either the first or second measurement of the horse and the owner does not agree with that measurement they have the option of either accepting the final measurement (and the horses papers updated to suit the new measurement) and show the horse in the applicable class or withdraw the horse from the show (and retain their original papers). However if the horse measures over by more than one inch (1") then the papers will be updated regardless.

4.10 ENTRIES ON THE DAY: If Entries on the Day are advertised to be accepted at any show:

- a) They shall be at the advertised "Entry on the Day" entry fee, and only allowed and accepted between the advertised times for such entries.
- b) Where all horses who are entering on the day of the show (ie: after the advertised closing date for entries, therefore are not pre-entered) must be measured regardless of whether they hold a Height Recording Card or not. (Pre-entered horses may still use their Height Recording Card if they are simply adding or entering another class.) The horse must be measured *in accordance with AMHS Inc height for age rules*.
- c) All horses, AMHS registered or otherwise, entering on the day MUST present a copy of both sides of their registration papers or they shall not be permitted to enter.
- d) No "Registration Pending" will be accepted on the day.
- e) For non-AMHS-registered horses, a copy of both sides of the Registration Certificate is to be submitted with completed Entry Forms and correct payment, including any additional insurance fees if applicable. If no registration papers are included, the entries cannot be processed.
- f) The Member's AMHS Inc. Membership Card must be *made available*.

4.11 REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS: An Exhibit must:

- a) Stand still for the Judge to inspect it.
- b) Be able to perform the workout as directed. Outside interference such as a loose horse galloping through the ring or other unforeseen circumstances which dramatically affects the competitor's chances to demonstrate their ability may mean that the Judge can allow a second chance to work out.
- c) Not show any evidence of cruelty or distress from whip marks, bleeding or drug abuse. At the discretion of the Judge, horses who excessively back away or attempt to run from their handlers in a fearful manner may not be judged.
- d) Not exhibit any lameness in the opinion of the Judge. The Exhibitor should be given the option of withdrawing from the class before judging is completed.

4.12 TIED PLACINGS: Tied placings will not ordinarily be awarded (exceptions may be made in Youth Handler classes). Where two (2) horses are deemed to be equal, preference shall be given to the smaller horse.

4.13 EXTRA HORSE: At State and National Shows one extra horse should be recorded as a reserve in case of a protest being lodged and upheld.



4.14 PROPER CONTROL: All horses must be under proper control at all times.

Bad manners exhibited by the horse such as kicking, biting, rearing or barging may result in the competitor being asked to withdraw from the class by the Steward on direction from the Judge. Any horse not under proper control will be issued a warning by Ring Stewards and subsequently may be disqualified from the class.

Any horse which becomes loose and escapes from the handler for any reason may be disqualified from the class. If the horse remains in the immediate judging area out of lead reach and does not interfere with any other horse to cause danger and disturbance and is retrieved promptly by the handler it may, at the discretion of the Judge and Show Officials, continue to be judged.

4.15 DISPUTES COMMITTEE: Every State and National show shall have a Disputes Committee made up of the following:

- a) Two Committee Members.
- b) The Show Manager

No member of this Committee may hear a protest in a Section of the Show in which he/she is exhibiting or competing. The Judge of the Section concerned may be consulted. The decision of the Committee is final and binding.

4.16 PROTESTS: The following persons may lodge a protest - Competitors or Exhibitors in the disputed Class or any Show Official. The protest must be lodged within THIRTY (30) MINUTES of the completion of the class. Protests must be accompanied by \$50.00 cash, refundable if the protest is upheld.

- a) Contestants have the right of protest, through the Ring Steward or Show Manager to any Obstacle, Marker or Surface which in the opinion of 50% or more of the contestants in the class could endanger the horse or handler. Such a protest may be adjudicated by the Disputes Committee.
- b) A Judge's decision, representing his or her individual preference is final and no protest can be lodged unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Rules.
- c) To make a formal complaint against a Judge, such complaint must be in writing, signed by the complainant, containing specific facts giving rise to the complaint and be received by the Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc within 14 days from the date of the occurrence. In serious cases the complainant may be required to attend a hearing conducted by the Society in regard to the matter, at a place directed by the National Committee of Management.
- d) Problems arising at a Show involving questions not specifically covered by the Rules will be adjudicated by the Show Committee. Any suggestions or queries involving Rules contained in the Rule Book should be addressed to the Secretary of the Society.
- e) Protests on horses heights will not be accepted at that show for which they are officially measured. Horses may be re-measured twice. The last measurement will be deemed the final height. No Protest will be accepted in regards to a horses height once an official measurement has been completed and recorded at an AMHS Inc. show.



Rule 5 Class Procedure

5.1 JUDGE'S DECISION:

- a) The Judge's decision is final.
- b) A Judge officiating at an Official Show is under no obligation to award 1st, 2nd or 3rd place (any placing) if he/she considers such Exhibit not up to standard.
- c) Once a class has been judged it shall not be re-judged.

5.2 JUDGING OF GRAND CHAMPION: In each section of the Programme all class winners are eligible to compete for Grand Champion. Each Exhibit which has qualified for the Grand Championship class must be given an individual workout.

5.3 SUPREME OF SHOW: Eligible Grand Champions *within their respective division* will compete for the applicable Supreme of Show.

5.4 SUPREME OF SUPREMES: Eligible Supreme of Show winners will compete for the applicable Supreme of Supreme Awards when offered at either a "AA" or "AAA" Class AMHS Inc Show. Where multiple Judges are selecting a Supreme of Supreme a Card System or written system should be employed.

5.5 SHOWING MORE THAN ONE HORSE: Any handler/driver who has shown two or more horses which have qualified to compete in a Grand Championship class may handle/drive each of these Exhibits in their individual workout in the Grand Championship class. This does not apply to the National Show.

5.6 ADDITIONAL HANDLER: An additional handler/driver must be in attendance to parade the second or subsequent Exhibits for the remainder of the Grand Championship class (if it applies, the Amateur status of the Additional Handler will not be affected by assisting in this situation).

5.7 SAME JUDGE: All classes, including Grand Champion and Supreme Awards, in one division shall be judged by the same Judge/s unless under extenuating circumstances.

Rule 6 THE JUDGE

The qualities required in any person invited to act as a Judge are:

- a) Honesty, Sincerity, Integrity, Fairness, Unbiased attitude.
- b) Thorough knowledge of The Standard of Excellence and Show Rules for the AMHS Inc. The relevant Rules and the Standard of Excellence will be sent to the Judge prior to the show.
- c) Ability to examine each horse quickly and reasonably.
- d) Ability to compare horses against each other and place them accordingly

Good judging depends upon the correct observation of the overall presentation and work of the Exhibits presented and the selection of the best horses as set out in the conditions of the class. A Judge serves three interests - the Judge's own conscience, the Exhibitors and the Spectators. The Judge should make it clear to the audience that the best horse wins. Judges should, at all times try to be positive and not just penalise Exhibits. Judges shall be 21 years of age or over. In Stallion classes the future of the breed is in the hands of the Judge who has the responsibility of upholding the Standard of the Breed.



6.1 RESPONSIBILITIES:

a) Personal:

- i) The Judge should have signed a current Judges Agreement with the AMHS Inc prior to judging at the show they have been contracted for;
- ii) Judges should be correctly and neatly attired to suit the occasion. A Judge may remove a jacket in excessive heat and give permission to Exhibitors to remove their jackets;
- iii) Whilst judging classes the Judge will refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or taking any substance that may impair the ability of the Judge to judge effectively;
- iv) The use of mobile phones whilst judging is strictly prohibited;
- v) The Judge should report on the day of Show to the Show Manager or Secretary in good time before the commencement of Classes;
- vi) If, after accepting a judging commitment a Judge is unable to meet such a commitment, the Judge shall communicate this to the Show Society immediately to allow the Show Society maximum time in which to seek a replacement. It must be accepted by Show Societies that occasionally, such exceptional circumstances may arise;
- vii) Judges must not discuss any Exhibit's faults with Stewards or other competitors. The exception to this rule is the Judge who has accepted the role of mentor to a Judge candidate but the utmost discretion must be observed in order to avoid offending Exhibitors and may only be done once Exhibitors have left the ring.
- viii) A Judge shall not be an Exhibitor, Steward or the Show Manager at any horse show at which he/she is officiating, except in extenuating circumstances or for special classes, as in National Shows over a number of days and with different sections.
- ix) The Judge shall not advertise, solicit or canvas his judging services.

b) Professional:

- i) The Judge will evaluate Miniature and Small Horse Exhibits at shows in accordance with the Standard of Excellence published by the Society;
- ii) The Judge shall adjudicate each class at a show in conformity with the rules and specifications in that class in accordance with the rules of the Relevant Show Society and the AMHS Inc Rule Book. Should a conflict over a ruling occur, the resolution of such shall be: the Rules of the Relevant Show Society take precedence - failing this, then the AMHS Inc Rule Book;
- iii) The Judge has the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in their opinion, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or which may be, in their opinion, inhumane or unsafe. In such cases the horse is excused from the Ring to adjust or remove offending gear;
- iv) At no time should a Judge interfere with a competitor's tack or gear in the ring;
- v) A Judge is the Official Guest of the Show Committee prior to the Show. A Judge shall not during the period of a Show at which he/she is judging, be the house guest of a person who is Exhibiting at the Show in the Horse section;
- vi) A Judge may not judge a section of a horse show which the Judge has judged in the past three (3) months within a radius of 75 kms;
- vii) A Judge shall not adjudicate any class in which any of his/her client or clients or members of his/her family are competing, unless, in the case of the client/pupil the relationship has been terminated at least three months prior to the show; nor should he/she judge a horse he/she has sold or leased to a client within the last three months;



- viii) A Judge shall not adjudicate any class in which an immediate member of his/her family or any of his/her horses are competing. He/she shall not adjudicate any class in which his/her trainer is competing. The onus is on the Competitor to withdraw from the class;
 - ix) The Judges name will be published along with a brief resume on the website after the close of entries for State and National Shows
- c) To Competitors:**
- i) A Judge should never refer to a competitor by name. Exhibits are to be called in by number or colour.
 - ii) A Judge should not converse with competitors. If a competitor requires information it must be relayed through the Steward.
 - iii) A Competitor may speak to a Judge after having arranged a suitable appointment through the Ring Steward or other Show Official. The Judge should receive such a competitor in a courteous and polite manner but always in the presence of a Steward or Show Official.
 - iv) Judges should not discuss the sale, purchase or lease of any horse with an Exhibitor before or during a Show at which they are officiating.
 - v) A Judge shall not visit the Exhibits' stables with owner/s or Exhibitors nor inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show or contest prior to the judging.
 - vi) A Judge shall not fraternise with any owner or Exhibitor prior to or during the show.

Rule 7 Ring Steward

The Ring Steward is responsible for hosting the Judge on the day.

The Ring Steward must have in mind that he/she has been selected to help the Judge not advise him/her. He/she shall carefully refrain from discussing or seeming to discuss the horses or Exhibitors with the Judge. Stewards shall not take part, or seem to take part, in any of the judging. When the Ring Steward is not actively engaged in any of his/her duties, he/she shall place him/herself in such a position as not to interfere with the judging and the view of the spectators. In all A Class Shows it is necessary that a competent Ring Steward be used; one who can control the conduct of the horses and Exhibitors in the ring or arena, who can keep the classes moving smoothly, and who is well versed in the Rules of the Society.

7.1 Responsibilities:

- a) The Ring Steward has the responsibility of checking entries for eligibility and handlers/drivers and horses for proper attire, equipment and appointments. Horses should be checked for whip marks and other signs of abuse. With the exception of the National Show where it shall be the responsibility of the Marshalling Steward.
- b) By assembling the class promptly the Steward will be able to keep the programme on schedule and eliminate long delays. With the exception of the National Show where it shall be the responsibility of the Marshalling Steward.
- c) The Ring Steward will notify the Judge when all horses are present for each class.
- d) The Ring Steward has charge of the activity in the ring or arena. He/she should act as mediator between the Judge and the Exhibitors. The Judge should request the Steward to move and place horses as he/she advises.
- e) At the Judge's request, the Ring Steward also has the authority to remove unsportsmanlike Exhibitors from the ring, and/or to ask an Exhibitor to remove his/her horse for the safety of other horses or spectators.
- f) The Ring Steward should see that the Judge places his/her signature on each class sheet together with that of the Steward and that the sheets for the entire show are handed to the Show Secretary.



- g) If, due to labour shortage in small Shows, it is found to be necessary for exhibitors to assist, they should not do so until they have finished exhibiting.
- h) Horses owned or trained by immediate members of his/her family or by the Ring Steward, cannot be shown in an event where the Ring Steward is officiating.

Rule 8 exhibitors

8.1 ONE HORSE PER HANDLER/DRIVER: Only one horse per handler/driver per class is permitted.

8.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE:

- a) Exhibitors must be suitably attired for the occasion. Dress will be dictated by the standard of the show. Exhibitors must be aware that both handlers and horses are on display and must present themselves in a neat and appropriate manner. Suitable attire includes: quality dress slacks or trousers. Plain short or long sleeve blouse. Ties, hats and jackets or coats are to be worn at the discretion of the Exhibitor. For formal occasions, long sleeved buttoned down shirt/blouse with slacks or skirt seem appropriate. Suitable footwear is always necessary, only boots and closed toe shoes are allowed.
- b) Any item of dress that, in the opinion of the Judge or Steward, may detract from the purpose of the event shall result in the possible exclusion of the Exhibit from that event. No advertising matter shall appear on any items of dress or equipment that leads to Stud, Farm or personal identification in the ring. The Judges or Show Official's decision on what comprises correct attire shall be final.

8.3 CONDUCT:

- a) Competitors shall at all times behave in a proper and respectful manner to Judges, Show Officials and their fellow competitors. Any Exhibitor whose conduct is considered to be ill-mannered, aggressive or unsportsmanlike during the judging of an event may be issued a warning and subsequently dismissed from the class or disqualified from the show.
- b) *Competitors at all times must abide by the AMHS Inc Code of Ethics, Conduct & Bullying Policy or risk being disqualified and ejected from the show/event effective immediately.*
- c) Once Judging has commenced, the horse shall not be led or driven in or out of the Ring without the permission of the Judge.
- d) Competitors will refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or taking any substance which impairs their ability to control the Exhibit.
- e) The use of mobile phones whilst competing in the ring is prohibited.

8.4 ELIGIBILITY:

- a) No Exhibitor may compete in any class being adjudicated by a Judge who is not permitted to judge the Exhibit/Exhibitor as stipulated in Rule 6 for Judges. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure eligibility for a class. Where any ineligibility to compete may occur, the competitor (not the Judge) should withdraw from the event.
- b) No Competitor may show before a Judge who has received, or has contracted to receive, a remuneration for the sale, purchase, or lease of any horse, from the date of signing the Lease, to or from, or for the account of said person within a period of three months prior to the show
- c) No competitor may show before a Judge who boards or rides or trains (for horse show purposes) any horse under the said persons ownership or lease, within a period of three months prior to the show. (stud fees excluded).



- d) No Competitor may show before a Judge who has remunerated said person for the board, training or handling of any horse for show purposes within a period of three months prior to the show.
- e) No Competitor who has been given tuition by a Judge may show within 3 months before the Judge or conversely no Judge may adjudicate his tutor until a 3-month period has elapsed. The rule is for individual tuition only. Training days and clinics organised on a group basis by other than the Judge, are exempt.

8.5 STALLIONS:

- a) No stallion or colt is to be handled or driven by a person under 18 years of age.
- b) No stallion or colt is permitted to be shown in any Junior Handler Class or Youth event.
- c) Handlers must not incite stallions to challenge by facing them up to each other or crowding them.

Rule 9 insurance

The Society will provide adequate Insurance coverage for any liability arising from incidents which could occur at Horse Shows for financial members.

In addition to the coverage provided by the Society for its members, the Committee require that all independent contractors, including concessionaries, be required to provide evidence that they have Worker's Compensation Insurance and Public Liability in force for the duration of the event.

Rule 10 abuse of horses

Any incident wherever on the show ground observed by an Official of the Show which is considered to reflect abuse or a cruel practice to an Exhibit by an Exhibitor, handler, or driver shall be reported to the Management and may result in immediate disqualification of it or him/her from all events in which the Exhibit, Exhibitor, handler, or driver is entered as well as the forfeiting of all prize monies gained.

- 10.1 WHIPS, CHAINS AND BITS:** These are acceptable aids in the showing of horses in In-Hand and Harness Classes. Where indiscriminate and excessive use of these aids occur a warning will be given. Disqualification will result if Exhibits display evidence of whip abuse or bleeding from bits. This should be checked by the Steward prior to judging.
- 10.2 WHIP LENGTH:** In harness classes whips should not exceed past the shoulder of the horse. Normal length dressage whips are acceptable in most classes. For In-Hand classes length of whip is not to exceed *70cms in total*.



Rule 11 Halter classes

In stallion and mare classes emphasis shall be placed upon type, conformation, movement, substance and quality, and suitability as a breeding animal. Exhibits will be judged in accordance with the Standard of Excellence as published by the Society.

Horses are to be shown in hand at the walk and trot. They should stand square with the weight distributed over all four feet. The Walk should be a definite four beat gait that is brisk, true, flat footed with good reach. The Trot should be a definite two-beat diagonal gait that is balanced and free moving. Both the Walk and the Trot should be straight and true.

11.1 GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING:

- a) All halter classes are to be judged on overall quality and conformation of exhibits which includes: Balance and proportion, sound conformation, free forward movement, bone and substance, temperament and tractability.
- b) A suitable strong show halter or bridle should be used.
- c) The Judge shall make an individual examination and check the action of all horses brought into a halter class.

11.2 PROCEDURE FOR JUDGING:

The normal procedure used in judging Halter classes is as follows:- Horses enter at the Walk or Trot. They will circle the ring at the walk as directed by the Judge or Steward. The horses will be lined up on one side of the ring with sufficient space between them for safety. Consideration should be given in placing the line-up in such a way as to give each horse the best possible workout in the defined area and so as not to obstruct the view of the spectators.

11.3 TYPES OF HALTER CLASSES:

A) PROGENY CLASSES

Progeny Classes shall have at least two Exhibits, entered under the name of the Sire or Dam, one handler per animal. Emphasis shall be placed on reproductive likeness, uniform quality and similarity of breed characteristics and conformation.

- 11.3.A.1 "Sire's Progeny Group":** Group of two or three males and/or females, the progeny of one sire. The progeny only are to be shown, not necessarily bred or owned by the owner of the sire. Entries to be in the name of the Sire only.
- 11.3.A.2 "Dam's Progeny Group":** Group of two males and/or females, the progeny of one dam. The progeny only are to be shown, not necessarily bred or owned by the owner of the dam. Entries to be in the name of the Dam only.
- 11.3.A.3 "Sire and Progeny":** Sire and one or more progeny, males and/or females are to be shown. Not to be necessarily bred or owned by the owner of the stallion. Entries to be in the name of the Sire only.



B) CLASSIC CLASSES

- 11.3.B.1** “**CLASSIC HEAD**” This class is judging the head only, so horses can enter the Ring at a walk and line up ready for inspection. Sufficient room should be left between horses for the Judge to view the heads from all angles, or horses may be called forward individually for inspection.
- 11.3.B.2** “**CLASSIC TROT**” Exhibits are to enter the ring at the trot showing lengthening strides and are judged between two definite markers. Only the trot is judged and must be judged in accordance with the Standard of Excellence. Deviations in action may be penalised according to their severity.

C) LEARNER CLASSES

You may only compete in a maximum of 8 Championship Shows as a Learner Handler. If you win Highpoint Learner, you are no longer a Learner Handler. If you win six Champions as a Learner you are no longer a Learner Handler.

D) AMATEUR/OWNER CLASSES

- 11.3.D.1** In Amateur Owner classes, horses are to be led by their recorded owners or owned or leased by the Amateur's immediate family. Where horses are registered in more than one name, all parties must be eligible for amateur status for the horse to compete.
- 11.3.D.2** Owner means the person who is noted in the records of the AMHS Inc. as the Owner or Lessee of the Horse/Pony.
- 11.3.D.3** An Amateur is one who regardless of his/her equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, does not act as a professional and has been approved by AMHS Inc. as an Amateur and is 18 years of age or older and no longer eligible to compete in youth classes.
- 11.3.D.4** **A Professional is not eligible to compete in amateur classes and is someone who, in the past three years:**
- a)** Has accepted remuneration directly or indirectly for training, schooling, driving, halter preparation and showing in halter
 - b)** Has earned \$50,000 or more in one financial year for the sale of horses either directly or on consignment.
 - c)** Has conducted clinics or seminars or given instruction in showing or training for which remuneration has been received.
 - d)** Has performed the above list of activities for which another person in his/her family or corporation, which a member of his/her family controls, will receive remuneration directly or indirectly.
 - e)** Has performed such activities while accepting remuneration directly or indirectly for employment in another capacity for an employer or member of the said employer's family who owns, boards or trains the involved horse.
 - f)** Has driven or exhibited in halter at horse shows any horse he/she or a member of his/her family accepts remuneration directly or indirectly for boarding or training.
 - g)** Has driven or exhibited in halter at horse shows any horse he/she or a member of his/her family accepts remuneration directly or indirectly for boarding or training.



11.3.D.5 The following activities shall not affect the Amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified:

- a) In emergencies/unforeseen circumstances such as helping another Competitor when they may have two or more horses out for a Grand Champion/Supreme or if they sustain an injury and are unable to compete.
- b) The writing of books pertaining to horses
- c) Accepting remuneration for judging or stewarding
- d) Speaking at workshops, clinics, seminars or youth training days in a voluntary capacity where they do not accept a fee for their services
- e) Receiving prize money
- f) Holding the occupation of farrier or veterinarian
- g) Owning or operating a saddlery, stud or breeding farm or boarding stables

11.3.D.6 – Explanations (Amateur Owner Rules)

- a) Basically, the above amateur rules mean that anyone who is employed by a training establishment to do duties other than breaking, training, schooling, driving, showing or preparing halter horses is eligible to be an Amateur.
- b) Spouses and immediate family of a trainer are also able to be an Amateur as long as they are not involved with the breaking, training, schooling or showing of any of the horses the trainer is being paid to work.
- c) People who board horses are eligible for Amateur status as long as they do not show, train or do any of the tasks in 15.4 of the rule, for the boarders. If they did they would be involved in receiving remuneration indirectly for those tasks upon payment of boarding fees.
- d) People not being paid money for any of those tasks in 15.4 of the rules, but are exchanging goods or services for those tasks would also be seen to be receiving remuneration indirectly.
 - e) Halter preparation has been included as a professional service as those preparing halter horses are being paid for their duties in the same manner someone would be paid to train and or show a horse.

11.3.D.7 – Amateur Related Protests

Any and all Protests regarding amateur eligibility must be made to the Protest Committee at least one hour prior to commencement of the amateur classes.

E) TINY TOT CLASSES

11.3.E.1 ELIGIBILITY: Tiny Tot Classes are for Youth 9yrs & Under. Tiny Tot classes are encouraged to be held at AMHS Inc shows which is to help give the younger Youth (9yrs & under) the opportunity to experience a variety of classes on offer while competing against youth at the same level and/or experience.

11.3.E.2 AGE CLASSES:

The Child Handler age is of the 1st August for Show Seasons to conform with High Point and not disadvantage

any children eg (if the child is 5yrs as at the 1st August and starts competing in the 5yrs & under classes and they turn 6yrs old in December, they would continue to show in the 5yrs & under class for the duration of the season so they are not disadvantaged with regards to Hi Points).

When Tiny Tot Classes are offered at an AMHS Inc. Show the following split is recommended but not mandatory (additional Tiny Tot classes may be offered if enough numbers to support):



- a) Tiny Tot (5yrs & Under). 5yrs & Under Tiny Tot's must be accompanied by adult in the show ring.
- b) Tiny Tot (6-9yrs). May be accompanied by an adult in the show ring and will not be penalized.

Tiny Tot classes are run in accordance with Youth Classes, Rule 17, refer below.

F) YOUTH CLASSES

11.3.F.1 PURPOSE: That upon completion of the classes, the Judge, Competitors and Spectators will be able to identify Youth graded according to their competency to control and exhibit a horse in hand.

11.3.F.2 ELIGIBILITY: Any person under the age of 18 years at the show entry closing date who, in the opinion of the parents can safely lead and control (i.e. handle) a horse. The competition could be divided into age groups. The winner of each age group may then compete for a special award eg Grand Champion.

11.3.F.3 AGE CLASSES: The Child Handler age is of the 1st August for Show Seasons to conform with High Point and not disadvantage any children eg (if the child is 5yrs as at

the 1st August and starts competing in the 5yrs & under classes and they turn 6yrs old in December, they would continue to show in the 5yrs

& under class for the duration of the season so they are not disadvantaged with regards to Hi Points).

The following Youth Classes will apply at AMHS Inc Shows:

- a) Tiny Tot (5yrs & Under). 5yrs & Under Tiny Tot's must be accompanied by adult in the show ring.
- b) Tiny Tot (6-9yrs). May be accompanied by an adult in the show ring and will not be penalised.
- c) 10-13yrs
- d) 14-17yrs old

11.3.F.4 DRESS: Competitors shall be suitably and neatly attired in accordance with dress codes for showing.

11.3.F.5 HORSES: Only mares and geldings aged 1 year and over are to be used in the interests of safety for all. Horses are to be shown according to the Rules of presentation of the AMHS Inc Breed Standard. Bridles and Led-In Halters are equally acceptable, however, should a horse appear unruly, the Judge may direct the Steward to request that gear be changed or adjusted.

11.3.F.6 WHIPS: Whips are not to be carried in youth classes.

11.3.F.7 COACHING OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS: No coaching, verbal instructions or signals are to be given from the sideline. The exception to this is the adult who is in the show ring with the child (aged 9yrs & under). It is the Steward's responsibility to warn any offending parties that their behaviour is unacceptable.

11.3.F.8 JUDGING GUIDELINES: The Judge selects the most competent handler who is neatly and correctly dressed (according to the Rules) and who shows the horse to have fluid paces and good manners i.e. the horse gives an animated performance but is submissive to the handler throughout and performs the correct workout.

11.3.F.9 AWARDS: Ribbons/Sashes/Rosettes are placed on the handler not the horse.



PERFORMANCE RULES

Section 12



Australian Miniature Horse Society (AMHS)
Australian Miniature Pony Registry (AMPR)
American Shetland Pony of Australia Registry (ASPA)
Australian Show Horse Foundation Registry (ASFR)



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- 12.10** HARNESS & DRIVING
- 12.11** LONG REINING
- 12.12** LIBERTY



Rule 12.1 AGE OF HORSES

A) HORSES AGE: For horses to compete in the following Performance Classes they must meet the minimum Actual Age requirement:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| i) | Trail: | 12 months Old (1yr Old) |
| ii) | Hunter: | 12 months Old (1yr Old) |
| iii) | Lungeline: | Old |
| iv) | Show Jumper: | 36 months Old (3yrs Old) |
| v) | Six Bar: | 36 months Old (3yrs Old) |
| vi) | Long Reining: | 24 months Old (2yrs Old) |
| vii) | Harness: | 36 months Old (3yrs Old) |
| viii) | Liberty: | 12 months Old (1yr Old) |

Rule 12.2 SHOWMANSHIP

General Rules

- A. No whips or canes are permitted in any Showmanship classes.
- B. Handlers are not permitted to "Hand Set" their horses in Showmanship classes.
- C. Showmanship pattern to be posted at least one (1) hour before the planned start of the class.
- D. Samples of showmanship patterns can be provided by AMHS officers. Judges may create their own showmanship patterns, but they must be written/illustrated for all the handlers to view before the class.
- E. The handler must always turn the horse to the right unless instructed otherwise by the showmanship pattern.
- F. Horses are to be shown in a suitable Show Halter (not a Performance Halter).

Basis of Judging

Showmanship is to be judged as follows:

Exhibitor	10%
Fitting & Grooming	10%
Showmanship	80%

- The Judge may ask Exhibitors questions relating to horsemanship and conformation.
- The Exhibitor shall always lead the horse from the horses left (near side).
- Unless otherwise instructed by the Judge, all turns should be to the right with the Exhibitor walking on the outside of the horse.
- Youth are required to look back in Showmanship when walking away from Judge (excessive looking back will constitute over showing).
- Exhibitors must lead and stand horses correctly at all times and will be penalised if they touch their horse with any part of their body eg hands or legs.
- The conformation and paces of the horse will not be judged as Showmanship is judged entirely on the handler's ability to control and guide the horse as required by the showmanship pattern. You must be able to walk, trot, turn, stop and back your horse as directed by the Judge
- The handler will be judged on their ability to show the horse to the Judge at all times throughout the class including: setting up in line, during the pattern and when presenting the horse to the Judge.
- The handler will be judged on their smoothness and tidiness in quartering, accuracy in following the pattern, and handling of the horse eg. squareness of halts, correctness of pivot (turn on the haunches) and smoothness of turns and transitions.



- The attire of the handler must be suitable showing attire as outlined in Show Rule 8.2. Hats and gloves are required by the handlers. Any handler without hat and gloves should be penalised on presentation points.
- The handler not following the proper instructions for the pattern may be eliminated.

Workout

The Exhibitors will enter the arena clockwise at a walk and set their horse up in the line up facing the centre of the arena. Each Exhibitor will be required to perform an individual workout as required by the Judge or Ring Steward.

Quartering

Quartering is a systematic procedure for the handler to position themselves around the horse as the horse is viewed by the Judge.

This system results in the Exhibitor always being in a safe position, the Exhibitor always being able to see the Judge and the horse's position, the Exhibitor always being in a position to keep the horse's hindquarters from swinging towards the Judge should the horse become fractious and unsafe for the Judge, and the Judge being in a safe position at all times to evaluate the Exhibitor's ability to show the horse as desired.

Rule 12.2 SHOWMANSHIP Cont...

There are two recognised methods of showing a horse in Showmanship, both of these methods shall be required at different times in this class:

Half Method *(to be used when Judge is walking up and down, in front or behind the line up)*

Draw an imaginary line down the horse from the poll to croup, the handler must always be on the opposite side of the horse to the Judge. When standing, always position yourself in the safe zone which is 45degrees to the horse, facing between the ears and withers. In this position both the horse and Judge are visible. As the Judge crosses the line either in front of or behind the horse, the handler should move smartly and smoothly through the danger zone to the opposite side of the horse. Always maintain the position opposite the Judge, even when they move on down the line of horses in the class.

Quarter Method *(to be used when Judge is walking around your horse)*

Using the imaginary line from the Half Method above, draw another imaginary line across the horse just behind the withers (this now divides the horse into four, see picture below). I – the near front quarter, II-the near hindquarter, III-the off hindquarter and IV-the off front quarter. When the Judge is walking through I, the handler should stand in Exhibitor Pos2. As the Judge moves to II, the handler moves back around to Exhibitor Pos1 (the same side as Judge). When the Judge moves to III, the handler moves to Exhibitor Pos2 and when the Judge walks through to IV, the handler moves back to original Exhibitor Pos1. This method is based on safety as the handler can keep the horses hindquarters from swinging towards the Judge should the horse become restless.

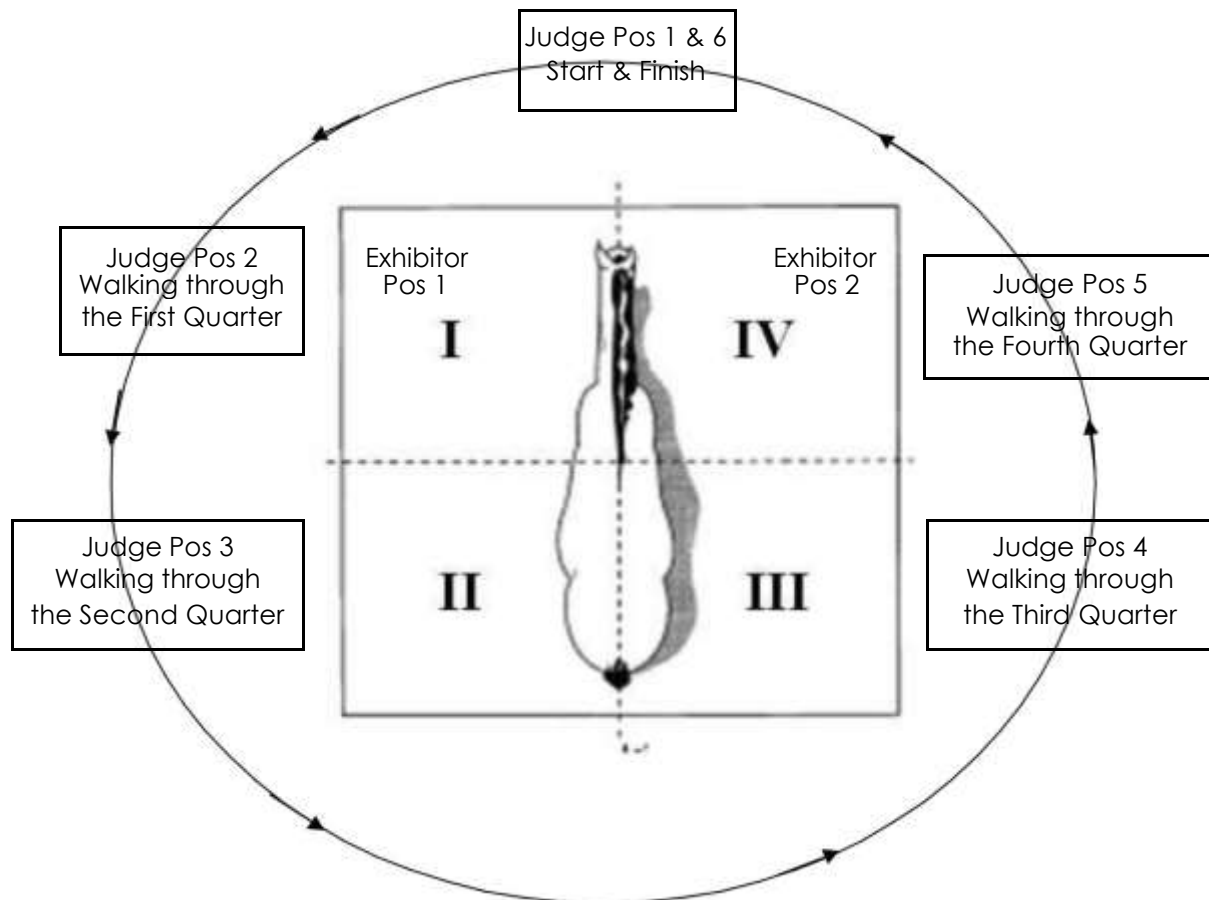


Judge

Standing at Judge Starting Point – Judge Position 1
Walking through first quarter – Judge Position 2
Walking through second quarter – Judge Position 3
Walking through third quarter – Judge Position 4
Walking through fourth quarter – Judge Position 5
Standing at Judge Finishing Point – Judge Position 6

Exhibitor

Standing in Exhibitor Position 1
Standing in Exhibitor Position 2
Standing in Exhibitor Position 1
Standing in Exhibitor Position 2
Standing in Exhibitor Position 1
Standing in Exhibitor Position 1





Rule 12.3 TRAIL

Trail is a disciplined event designed to test the working relationship between horse & handler. Trail is not an obstacle race. Trail gives the Exhibit the opportunity to demonstrate with a number of obstacles its ability and willingness to work with the Handler without hesitation and with precision.

- A. Horses shall be over 12 months (actual age) and over to compete in these events.
- B. The Exhibit should move through the set course fluently and correctly.
- C. The course will comprise a minimum of six obstacles. All three (3) "Mandatory" Obstacles are to be used. The remaining obstacles to make up the trail course may consist of any of the other listed "Optional" obstacles.
- D. An Exhibitor may attempt any obstacle up to three (3) times but then they must move onto the next obstacle.
However, the Judge may at their discretion send the Exhibit onto the next obstacle at any time.
- E. The class will be judged on the performance of the horse over and through obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the Handler and attitude of the Exhibit.

Course Layout

When setting courses, show management should bear in mind that the idea is not to intimidate or eliminate a horse by making an obstacle too difficult. The course should be designed to demonstrate the ability of the horse to respond to the handlers guidance.

- A. Course diagrams must be displayed at least one hour prior to commencement of any trail class. Diagram should include direction each obstacle must be approached and also indicate whether it is at a trot or walk.
- B. The Judge must be available to perform a walk through the course with Exhibitors prior to commencement of the class. Only handlers are permitted on the course – no horses until commencement of class.
- C. A start and finish line must be established at least 12 feet from the first and last obstacle and indicated by two markers at least 4 feet apart. The Exhibitor must go between these markers to officially start and end the pattern otherwise the Exhibitor is considered off course and eliminated. Horses must cross the line in the proper direction to start and complete the course.
- D. All course designs must ensure safety precautions are taken and the Judge has the right to alter any course that he/she feels may be unsafe before the first horse is on course. The course shall not be altered after the first horse has completed the course. A Judge may choose to eliminate an obstacle if it is deemed unsafe.
- E. The sequence of the obstacles may vary and two or more of any of the obstacles may be combined.
- F. The following obstacles are prohibited:
 - Tyre and stair obstacles
 - Logs or poles elevated in such a manner that allows them to roll
 - Rocking or moving bridges



Judging and Scoring

Judging of the Exhibit/Handler will be assessed by the following:

- Manners
- Performance and Style;
- Responsiveness;
- Competence of the Handler and Horse

Trail is scored on a mathematical basis with points being award from zero (0) to ten (10) per obstacle.

The Judge should be provided with a score sheet to enable recording of these scores. It is preferred to also provide a Steward to record/scribe the scores as the Judge is watching the Exhibit so that he/she does not have to stop judging to record scores. The Judge will be required to use the AMHS Inc. method of scoring as outlined in Rule 6.





Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

Legal Cueing

Handlers are permitted to cue their Exhibit by the use of voice commands and hand signals or body language without incurring any penalties.

Illegal Cueing

The Exhibitor will be penalised up to four (4) points every time they illegally cue their Exhibit. Illegal cues include but are not limited to:

- Physically pushing the horse in any direction with deliberate body or hand contact with the Exhibit (4pts)
- Any obvious intimidation of the horse eg. holding the horse by the halter rather than the lead (4pts)
- Backing horse by aggressively shaking the lead rope (4pts)

Penalties

- Failure to complete an obstacle (it is not a disqualification but should be penalised accordingly) (2pts)
- Any unnecessary delay in approaching an obstacle (2pts)
- Stepping on or in an obstacle with the horse unless the course layout requires it or by direction of the Judge. (2pts)

The age and size of a Junior Handler may be taken into account when assessing penalty points in Youth Trail events

Disqualification (relates to ALL Trail Obstacles)

- Off Course eg. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong direction or order as instructed.
- Falling of the horse or handler
- Horse running free of the handler (except at those obstacles where the horse is deliberately released such as ground tie)
- Wilful abuse of the horse by the handler/hitting horse with lead rope.
- Carrying a whip (except for lunge event)
- Leaving arena without permission of the Judge or Steward

Equipment Used By The Exhibitor

- The horse should be shown in a leather, plastic (PVC, Zilco) or webbing headstall which sits flat against the Exhibits nose. There should be no buckle on the noseband.
- Rope halters are allowed provided there are no knots on the noseband of the halter or elsewhere designed to exert pressure to sensitive areas of the horses face. They may have padding at poll and noseband.
- The lead may be flat or rounded and should attach directly to the halter or under the chin with a swivel clip or similar. The handler's end of the lead must be without a loop.
- The lead must not be shorter than 6 feet.



Prohibited Equipment (Automatic Disqualification)

- Whips or similar objects
- Chain either over or under the Exhibit's face, through the Exhibits mouth or attached to the lead
- Any Show Halters
- Roller or similar object to keep the head under control

Exhibitors Dress

Exhibitor must be suitably attired for showing in accordance with Show Rule 8 of the Australian Miniature Horse Society Inc.

Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

Obstacles

OBSTACLES	Junior 12-36mths	Senior Over 36 mths
<u>Mandatory</u>		
Backing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk / Trot Poles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Optional</u>		
Turn in Square		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jump	12" only	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lungeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pivot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sidepass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Straddle		<input type="checkbox"/>
Tarp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trail Obstacles

Normal trail equipment can be used. The poles should be a maximum of 4 inches (10cms) in diameter and should be four (4) to five (5) feet long.

The composition of the poles can be wood or synthetic PVC depending upon the location and use of the poles. The horizontal jump poles should be made from PVC whereas ground poles or walkovers can be wooden (split poles should be used for walk overs and trot overs that lie flat on the ground). The surfaces should be smooth.



BACKING

Objective

The horse must reverse through a preset pattern of poles or markers. The poles may be set in any pattern such as an L, V, Z or parallel lines.

Backing poles should be spaced a minimum of 30" apart. When the poles are set, their location must be marked for the re-set of the obstacle should it be moved by the horse.

Illegal Cues

- Holding the Exhibit by the halter or if the Handler makes contact with the Exhibit (4pts).
- The handler should not stand directly in front of the horse and use their body to intimidate the horse to back (4pts).

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts)..
- The handler should not walk inside the obstacle, remaining outside of the backing obstacle (2pts)..
- The horse should be outside of the obstacle before they commence backing (2pts).
- The handler must follow the instructions from the Judge on the distances to back or the number of steps (2pts)

Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

WALK OR TROT POLES

Objective

The horse must trot through and/or over a sequence of ground poles without touching the poles. The poles can be set in straight line, zig zag or fan shaped pattern. The degree of difficulty of the layout should be reflected in the age of the handler and horse.

Specifications

Number of poles (maximum):	Six (6) Poles 18-24 inches
Distance between poles:	4-5 feet 3-4 inches
Length of poles:	
Diameter of poles:	

* Only walk over poles may be elevated from the ground.

Illegal Cues

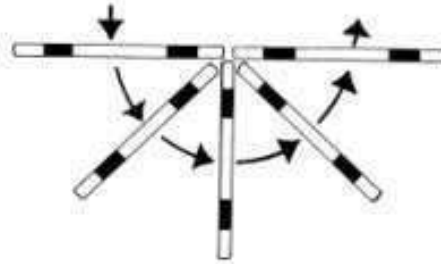
- Holding the Exhibit by the halter or if the Handler makes contact with the Exhibit (4pts).



Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- The handler should not walk inside the obstacle, remaining outside the obstacle (2pts).
- The horse is expected to step over the poles and to be penalised for jumping, leaping, refusing and evading (2pts).
- The horse is penalized for ticking/ hitting and knocking/rolling each pole (1pt).

Example of fan shaped Walk/Trot over poles



LUNGEING

Objective

The lungeing obstacle is used to test the horse's ability to display correct and fluent movement in the natural gaits of the horse eg. at the walk, trot and/or canter.

Movement, manners and style, use of the circle is also judged.

The course diagram will indicate the pace and direction for this obstacle.

Illegal Cues

- Holding the Exhibit by the halter or if the Handler makes contact with the Exhibit (4pts).

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- Not executing the obstacle at the required gaits/paces (2pts).
- A horse with poor manners and uncontrolled (2pts).
- Horse stopping to eat (2pts)
- Horse/Handler getting tangled/caught in lunge lead (2pts)

Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

GATE

Objective

The horse and Exhibitor must go through the gate and close the gate behind them.

The idea is to open and close the gate without letting the sheep out so the gate must only be opened as wide as required to let horse and Exhibitor through.

One hand should remain on the gate at all times.

Penalties

- Failure to complete the obstacle (4pts).
- The handler losing control over the gate and the loss of contact with the gate (2pts).
- The horse not willing to walk through the gate and stand quietly (2pts).
- The horse touching the gate (2pts).



CONES

Objective

The handler must lead and guide the horse while at a walk or trot through a sequence and a prescribed pattern of cones spaced equal distance apart.

The handlers position in relationship with the horse is determined by the type of course or pattern for the obstacle. The Handler is to take the same path as the horse (eg the handler is to go around the cones with the horse).

Specifications

Number of cones: 4-6 cones

Distance between cones (max): 8 feet

TIP: The course diagram will outline the direction to travel this obstacle. Ensure you start the obstacle with the cone on the correct side.

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse not willing to work through the cones (2pts).
- The handler fails to take the same path as the horse (2pts).
- Failure to use correct gait/break of gate each time will incur a penalty (2pts).

TURN IN SQUARE (90, 180, 270 & 360 degree turns)

Objective

The square will be made of 4 (four) 5 foot long 3" to 4" diameter poles.

The horse and handler must enter into the square & turn the horse away from them (clockwise) in a complete circle

& leave the square on the opposite side of entry or follow the directions of the course pattern and instructions from the Judge. Not all patterns will include the horse and handler in the box. Some of the patterns may require the horse to turn to its right 90, 180, 270 or 360 degrees from the entry point in the box.

The handler must be within the square, unless directed otherwise by the Judge. Neither, the horse or handler should touch the poles or step outside the square while doing the turn as this will be penalised.

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse not willing to turn the prescribed distance (2pts).
- The horse steps outside of the square with one foot (2pts).
- The horse steps completely outside of the square (4pts).
- The handler steps outside of the square (2pts).



Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

PIVOT ON THE FOREQUARTERS OR ON THE HAUNCHES

Objective

Keep the front legs of the horse as still as possible in one location, while in the centre of the circle, while moving the haunches around the outside of the circle until a full circle of 360 degrees has been completed.

Alternatively the horse may be required to perform and turn on the haunches, the rear legs remain stationary while turning on the front end. Wilful participation by the horse is the goal.

If the horse is asked to pivot on the front legs, ensure to position the horse's front legs in the centre of the obstacle and reverse for a rear leg pivot.

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- Handler making deliberate body or hand contact with the horse (2pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse not willing to turn the prescribed distance (2pts).

BRIDGE

Objective

The horse must walk over a bridge. A horse should show willingness and expression and not display signs of fear/intimidation. Horse should take purposeful steps over the bridge with its head lowered to examine the bridge in a cautious yet confident manner. The handler is not permitted onto the obstacle.

Bridges should always be sturdy and safe without sides. Rocking or moving bridges are prohibited.

Specifications

The design and construction of the bridge must conform to the following:

Maximum Height: 12 inches
Width (Minimum): 2 feet
Length (Minimum): 5 feet

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- The handler is not permitted onto this obstacle (2pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse steps off the bridge (2pts).
- The horse not showing expression with head lowered (2pts).



JUMPS

Objective

The Exhibit must clear the jump without touching the obstacle (clear round).

Specifications

Maximum number of Jumps: Four (4)

Height – Junior (Max): 12 inches

Height – Senior (Max): 24 inches

Minimum width of Jumps: 5 feet

Distance between Jumps: 20 feet

Penalties

- Handler is not permitted to jump the obstacle (2pts).
- Handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse refusing (2pts). Two (2) refusals at the same jump constitutes a zero (0) for the obstacle.
- The horse and/or handler knocks down the jump or any part of the jump (4pts)



Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

STRADDLE

Objective

The horse must walk over a pole lying on the ground so that the off-side legs stay on one side of the pole and the near side legs stay on the other side of the pole. The horse is lead to the length of the pole or expected to follow the instructions from the Judge.



Penalties

- Failure to complete the obstacle (4pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse refusing to straddle pole (2pts).
- The horse or the handler dislocates the original position of the pole (2pts).
- The horse stands on the pole (2pts).
- The horse steps to the other side of the pole (2pts).
- The handler steps over or on the pole (2pts).

TIP: Practice this one at home starting with a short pole and slowly increasing the length

TARP

Objective

The horse is to walk over a coloured tarp that has been secured safely to the ground in a direction as prescribed by the course pattern and/or Judge.

The horse must walk over the tarp. The handler is not permitted to walk on the tarp. The horse should show willingness and expression and not display signs of fear or intimidation. The Horse should take purposeful steps over the tarp with its head lowered to examine the tarp in a cautious yet confident manner. The handler is not permitted onto the obstacle.

The tarp should be held to the ground by two ground poles to prevent it flapping and spooking the horse.

Specifications

Length of Tarp: 5 feet
Width of Tarp: 24 inches

Penalties

- Failure to complete obstacle (4pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse steps to the side of the tarp with one foot (2pts).
- The horse steps completely off the tarp (4pts).
- The horse fails to walk over the tarp, jumps, leaps or evades (4pts).
- The horse not showing expression with head lowered (2pts).
- The handler stepping onto the obstacle (2pts).



Rule 12.3 TRAIL Cont...

SIDE PASS

Objective

The horse must side pass over a pole. The horse should cross over their legs as they execute the side pass.

Horses should stay straight and perpendicular to the pole.

Handlers are reminded that physically pushing or hitting the horse constitutes illegal

The course diagram will indicate the direction of the side pass.

Illegal Cues

- The handler intimidates the horse to make it side pass either with lead and/or hand/arm (4pts).

Penalties

- Failure to complete the obstacle (4pts).
- The handler losing control (2pts).
- The horse refuses/fails to side pass (2pts).
- The horse places feet over the opposite side of the pole (2pts).

Rule 12.4 hunter

In this event Exhibits are judged not solely on the number of jumping or course faults but on style, manners and way of going, dress and attire, control and gait, recognising the degree of difficulty in maintaining a consistent trot or canter.

The attire of the handler must be in accordance with Show Dress Code as outlined in the Show Rules 8.2. Hats and gloves are required by the handlers. Any handler without hat and gloves should be penalised.

There will be a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6) jumps. Jumps should simulate those found in the hunting field. Exhibits are only required to jump the course once.

Before commencement of the course and again when a horse completes the course, the horse will be required to walk and/or trot a circle before the Judge to enable the Judge to assess the soundness of the horse (Judge is to advise either a walk or trot circle before class begins).

Course Layout

Course diagrams must show with arrows the direction each obstacle must be approached from and each obstacle must be numbered in the sequence it is to be jumped on the diagram. The course must have at least one (1) change of direction (no more than four changes of direction).

Once a course has been set by the Show Committee, the course should be tested to ensure turns are not too sharp for a horse to complete safely bearing in mind the need for the horse to maintain the same gait throughout the course. This could be difficult if the turns are too tight.



Exclusions

JUNIOR HUNTER: Horses under 1 year (12 months) of age are not eligible to compete and Senior horses are also ineligible.

SENIOR HUNTER: Horses under 3 years (36 months) of age are not eligible to compete.

Rule 12.4 hunter Cont...

Jumps

Jumps should be a minimum of 20 feet apart with the exception of in-and-out jumps. An In-and-out is considered one obstacle, with two elements (should not be set no less than 6 feet apart) and its use is restricted to Senior Hunter only. Maximum height of the bar on the second element of an in-and-out must not exceed 24 inches.

Jumps should simulate the hunting field such as natural looking post and rails, brush fencing, stone wall, brick walls and flower jumps. Hay bales should never be used due to the string or wire tie on the bale. Brush jumps must have a visible bar.

Judging and Scoring

In this event, horses are not judged solely on the number of jumping or course faults but on their performance, jumping style, manners and way of going.

No horse with jumping or course faults shall ever place higher than a sound horse with a clear round.

Fault Points

Description	Fault Points
<input type="checkbox"/> Knockdowns	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Refusals	4
Unnecessary	
<input type="checkbox"/> Circling	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Run Out	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Broken Tack	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Touching Obstacle	2

Penalties

- Horse not executing obstacle at required gait/paces (2pts).
- Handler losing control of horse (2pts).
- Horse with poor manners and/or uncontrolled (2pts).
- Poor Presentation (eg no hat/gloves) (2pts).
- Unsafe jumping and/or bad form over the jump (2pts).

Automatic Disqualification

- Two refusals at the same obstacle
- Three disobediences over the course
- Off Course/negotiating course in wrong order
- Falling of the horse or the handler
- Handler jumping the obstacle with the horse
- Jumping of an obstacle before it has been reset
- Horse running free from the handler
- Wilful abuse of the horse by the handler
- Carrying a whip or incorrect equipment
- Unsound horse
- Leaving the arena without the permission from the Judge or Steward
- Pulling, Lifting or dragging of the horse over an obstacle



Where Exhibits do not incur any jumping or course faults (or where Exhibits have incurred an equal number of jumping or course faults) the Exhibits will be ranked according to the Judges assessment of the following:

WAY OF GOING: Horses should cover the course at an even pace, with free flowing strides as in a brisk yet controlled trot or canter. A horse will be penalised for any change of gait whilst on course.

Rule 12.4 hunter Cont...

STYLE: Horses should show correct jumping style that meet the fences squarely, in stride and jump at the centre of the fence. A horse will be penalised for unsafe jumping and bad form over fences (i.e cat leaping, hanging a leg, rushing a fence)

MANNERS: A horse should negotiate the course in a smooth, easily controlled, obedient manner. A horse will be penalised for bad mannerisms such as rearing, bucking, spooking or shying while on course.

Presentation: Handlers should present themselves and turn out their horses in a manner, according to the dress codes. Hats and gloves are to be worn in Hunter.

Definitions

“KNOCKDOWNS”: Four (4) point penalty for each knockdown. An obstacle is considered knocked down when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or handler by contact lowers the established height of the fence in any way.

“REFUSALS”: Four (4) point penalty for each refusal. If a horse halts at an obstacle, discontinuing its forward motion and backs a single step, side steps or circles to retake a fence, a refusal fault is incurred.

A horse stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing followed by jumping from a standstill is not considered a fault in jumping events however, in a hunter class shall lose points for style. After the refusal and the horse is repositioned to negotiate the obstacle, if the horse is moved forward towards the obstacle but does not attempt to jump, it is considered another refusal. Two refusals at the same obstacle results in elimination. Refusal at the in-and-out obstacle requires the re-taking of both elements of the one obstacle.

“UNNECESSARY CIRCLING”: Four (4) point penalty. Any form of circling whereby the horse crosses its' original track between two consecutive obstacles anywhere on the course. Circling is permitted prior to crossing the start line and again at the conclusion of course to demonstrate soundness to the Judge. A horse that has been penalised for circling cannot then be penalised for crossing its own path at the same obstacle when it is attempting to retake an obstacle after a refusal or run-out.

“RUN OUT”: Four (4) point penalty for each run-out. A run-out occurs when the horse evades or passes the obstacle to be jumped without jumping or attempting to jump the obstacle, jumps the obstacle from outside the limiting markers, or when a horse or handler knocks down a marker limiting the obstacle.

“BROKEN TACK”: Four (4) point penalty. In the case of broken or ill-fitting gear, the handler may stop and correct the difficulty in which case a 4 fault penalty will apply. However, if the tack problem causes the horse to run free, this is cause for elimination.

“TOUCHING OBSTACLE”: Two (2) point penalty. Any contact with the obstacle by the horse (excluding tail) or the handler will incur a penalty. Includes ticks and rubs with the front or hind legs.



Rule 12.5 JUMPING events - Common Rules

Jumper Course Layout

Course design must be displayed at least one hour before commencement of Jumper classes and two (2) hours before any Triple A (AAA) Show Jumper class.

A start and finish line must be established at least 12 feet from the first and last obstacle and be indicated by two markers at least 4 feet apart.

Horses must cross the line in the proper direction to officially start and complete the course

Judges are responsible for the correctness of the course after it has been set and should bring to the show Committee's attention any obstacles that would tend toward an unfair or dangerous course.

Once entering the ring, the handler and horse MUST circle once at the trot prior to entering the starting point and again at the conclusion of the course to demonstrate soundness to the Judge. The only exception to the rule is when a Judge may ask for the circles to be performed in a group at the beginning and end of the Competition. Circling while on course will be subject to penalty.

Warm Up Facilities

It is mandatory for a practice jump be provided to Exhibitors. Availability times are designated by Show Management but should be available as soon as practicable prior to start of course.

Equipment

The horse should be shown in leather, plastic or webbing headstall which sits flat against the horses nose. There shall be no buckle on the noseband. Rope halters are permitted provided there are no knots on the noseband of the halter or elsewhere designed to exert pressure to the sensitive parts of the horses face. They may have padding at poll and noseband. The lead may be flat or rounded and should attach directly to the halter or under the chin with a swivel clip or similar (same as Trail Lead). The lead must not be shorter than 6 feet.

Exclusions

- Horses under 3 years (36 months) actual age, are not eligible to compete in any Jumping events.

Jumps

Jumps must be constructed with the horse's safety being paramount. Jumping poles will be made of PVC piping or other suitable lightweight material. All jumps must be at least 5 feet wide.

Jumps must be a minimum of 20 feet apart with the exception of an in-and-out. An in-and-out is considered one obstacle consisting of two elements. In-and-outs should be set no less than 6 feet apart. The bar on the first element of an in-and-out should be set at a lower height than the bar on the second element of an in-and-out. Maximum height of bar on the second element must not exceed 24 inches.

For the first round of jumping the minimum height for jumps must be 18 inches and the maximum height must not exceed 28 inches. Sight ground poles are required for all jumps and must be directly underneath/in front of each jump (less than 12 inches)

Jumps set at 32 inches or more in height must have a second rail added and if a post and rail jump, they must also have a sight pole directly underneath the jump.



Judging and Scoring

Penalties

Description	Fault Points	Description	Fault Points
* Knockdowns	4	* Not circling for Judge at Start/Finish	2
* Refusals	4	* Not acknowledging Judge at Finish	2
* Unnecessary Circling	4	* Not wearing hat/gloves (Hunter)	2
* Run Out	4	* Breaking announced gait (Hunter)	2
* Broken Tack	4	* Touching Obstacle (Hunter Only)	2

Automatic Disqualification

- Two refusals at the same obstacle
- Three disobediences over the course (a disobedience is a refusal, run-out or circling)
- Off Course/negotiating course in wrong order
- Falling of the horse or the handler
- Handler jumping the obstacle with the horse
- Jumping of an obstacle before it has been reset
- Horse running free from the handler
- Wilful abuse of the horse, Judge or others by the handler
- Carrying a whip or incorrect equipment
- Unsound horse
- Leaving the arena without the permission from the Judge or Steward
- Hitting horse with lead rope
- Pulling, lifting or dragging horse over obstacle

Definitions

“KNOCKDOWNS”: Four (4) point penalty for each knockdown. An obstacle is considered knocked down when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or handler by contact lowers the established height of the fence in any way.

“REFUSALS”: Four (4) point penalty for each refusal. If a horse halts at an obstacle, discontinuing its forward motion and backs a single step, side steps or circles to retake a fence, a refusal fault is incurred.

A horse stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing followed by jumping from a standstill is not considered a fault in jumping events however, in a hunter class shall lose points for style.

After the refusal and the horse is repositioned to negotiate the obstacle, if the horse is moved forward towards the obstacle but does not attempt to jump, it is considered another refusal. Two refusals at the same obstacle results in elimination.

Refusal at the in-and-out obstacle requires the re-taking of both elements of the one obstacle. This does not apply to 6 Bar. If the horse refuses or runs out the handler may resume the course at the bar where the fault occurred. The handler is permitted to make his approach from outside the space between the two bars where the fault occurred.



“UNNECESSARY CIRCLING”: Four (4) point penalty. Any form of circling whereby the horse crosses its' original track between two consecutive obstacles anywhere on the course. Circling is permitted prior to crossing the start line and again at the conclusion of course to demonstrate soundness to the Judge. A horse that has been penalised for circling cannot then be penalised for crossing its own path at the same obstacle when it is attempting to retake an obstacle after a refusal or run-out.

“RUN OUT”: Four (4) point penalty for each run-out. A run-out occurs when the horse evades or passes the obstacle to be jumped without jumping or attempting to jump the obstacle, jumps the obstacle from outside the limiting markers, or when a horse or handler knocks down a marker limiting the obstacle.

“BROKEN TACK”: Four (4) point penalty. In the case of broken or ill-fitting gear, the handler may stop and correct the difficulty in which case a 4 fault penalty will apply. However, if the tack problem causes the horse to run free, this is cause for elimination.

Rule 12.6 Show jumper

All rules as outlined in Rule 12.5 *Jumping Event - Common Rules and Definitions* section apply to this event.

There will be a minimum of four (4) obstacles and maximum of eight (8) jumps.

After the first round of jumping only those Exhibits without fault can participate in the next round. However, if there is no clear round, those Exhibits with the lowest number of faults can compete.

Each round the number of jumps is decreased and the height of every jump increased until a winner is determined.

Course Layout

Course diagrams must show with arrows the direction each obstacle must be approached from. All jumps must be consecutively numbered in the sequence they should be addressed.

An in-and-out obstacle should be clearly identified on the diagram with each element separately labelled. An in-and-out should never be the first obstacle.

A start and finish line must be established at least 20 feet from the first and last obstacle and be indicated by two markers at least 4 feet apart.

Horses must cross the line in the proper direction to start and complete the course.

Once entering the ring, the Exhibit should circle once prior to entering the starting point and again at the conclusion of the course so the Judge can assess the horse for soundness. Circling while on course will be subject to penalty.

Warm Up Facilities

It is mandatory for a practice jump to be provided to all Exhibitors. Availability times are designated by Show Management but should be available as soon as practicable prior to start of course.



Jumps

Jumps should be attractive and varied. Brush jumps must have a visible bar. Jumps must be a minimum of 20 feet apart with the exception of an in-and-out.

The maximum height of the bar on the second element of an in-and-out must not exceed 24 inches. The in-and-out should be set no less than 6 feet apart.

The first bar on the first element of the in and-out should be set at a lower height than the second element.

For the first round of jumping the minimum height for jumps must be 18 inches and the maximum height must not exceed 28 inches.

Judging & Scoring

Before commencement of each round of jumping and again when a horse completes the round of jumping, the horse will be required to walk and/or trot a circle before the Judge to enable the Judge to assess the soundness of the horse.

Jumping or course faults will incur penalties as described in Rule 12.5 Jumping Events, Common Rules, Penalties and Disqualifications.

Jump Offs

If after the first round of jumping, two or more horses have equal scores the placings will be determined by a jump off. The number of jumps will be decreased to four and the height of the jumps will be increased by not less than 2 and not more than 4 inches.

If subsequent jump offs are needed the number of jumps is reduced by one down to a minimum of two with the height of the jump increased by at least 2 inches but not more than 4 inches.

If an exhibit is disqualified in a round of jumping, it cannot be placed lower than any horse eliminated in an earlier round of jumping.

Only horses with a clear round or similar value of points can continue to the next round

Rule 12.7 SIX BAR

All rules as outlined in Rule 12.5 *Jumping Events - Common Rules and Definitions* section apply to this event.

In this event six identical obstacles are placed in a straight line. If space or equipment is limited, this event may be reduced to five (5) obstacles.

After the first round of jumping, the Exhibits with the lowest number of faults may participate in the next round.

The jumping will continue eliminating Exhibits until there is an overall winner.

After each round the height of each jump will be increased by 2-4" only.

Each jump shall have a site ground pole directly below each jumping bar & as jumps get higher more bars must be added.

Jumps

More distance is required as the height of the jumps increases.

Jumps will be placed according to the following

Jump 1 to jump 2 12 feet

Jump 2 to Jump 3 12 feet 2 inches

Jump 3 to Jump 4 12 feet 4 inches

Jump 4 to Jump 5 12 feet 6 inches

Jump 5 to Jump 6 12 feet 8 inches

Distance between jumps is the same for all height sections



Rule 12.7 six bar Cont...

Judging and Scoring

Jumpers are scored on a mathematical basis only and will incur penalties as described in Rule 12.5 Jumping Events, Common Rules, Penalties and Disqualifications.

Jump Offs

If after a round of jumping, two or more Exhibits are equal, the positions will be determined by a jump off. If an Exhibit is eliminated in a round of jumping it can never finish in a lower place than Exhibits eliminated in an earlier round.

After each round the height of the jumps is increased by 2 inches and this continues until a winner is eventually determined. If more than one horse in the same round incurs faults, then those horses must jump off for placing's in that height

Rule 12.8 FAULT & OUT

All rules as outlined in Rule 12.5 *Jumping Events - Common Rules and Definitions* section apply to this event.

There is only one jump in this event.

Jumps

The jump must have an angle pole under the bottom rail. As the jump gets higher, more rails are added and the ground line adjusted.

Judging and Scoring

Jumpers are scored on a mathematical basis and will incur penalties as described in Rule 18.5 Jumping Events, Common Rules, Penalties and Disqualifications.

After the first round of jumping, only those Exhibits without fault can participate in the next round, however, if there are no clear rounds, all Exhibits can continue competing.

After each round the height of the jump is increased by 2 inches and this continues until a winner is eventually determined. If more than one horse in the same round incurs faults, then those horses must jump off for placing's in that height

Rule 12.9 LUNGELINE

Lungeline tests the horse's ability to display correct and fluid movement in all three gaits – walk, trot and canter, on the lunge-line. Each Exhibit must be shown to the Judge working on the lunge-line in each of the three gaits, preferably in both directions.

A 90 second time limit will apply and be denoted by a whistle to begin, another whistle when 45 seconds remain for the workout and a final whistle will cease judging of the Exhibit. At the end of the 90 seconds the Exhibitor shall leave the arena. All horses should return at the completion of all workouts for placing's.

Judging

Horses should display correct and fluent movement along with a pleasant and obedient temperament. Horses should show quality of movement and the transitions between gaits during the workout. Horses need to display the three gaits working in each direction.

In the event of a tie, the Judge's assessment of the Exhibit's conformation and presentation will determine the placing's.



Equipment

The Exhibit should be shown in a halter as described in trail and the lunge lead must not be shorter than 10 feet. An Exhibit may also, at Judge's discretion, be disqualified for incorrect head gear. Whips are optional but must not come in contact with the Exhibit.

Routine

1. Enter the arena and walk to the center of the circle
2. Acknowledge the Judge
3. Send the horse to the circumference of the ring
4. Walk the horse at least one complete circle
5. Trot the horse at least one complete circle
6. Canter the horse at least one complete circle
7. Turn the horse on circumference to face opposite direction
8. Walk the horse at least one complete circle
9. Trot the horse at least one complete circle
10. Canter the horse at least one complete circle
11. Halt, immobility for 3 seconds
12. Acknowledge the Judge
13. Exit

Illegal Cues

- The handler makes deliberate hand/body contact with the horse (4pts).

Penalties

- Not executing the obstacle at required gait/pace (2pts).
- Horse with poor manners and uncontrolled (2pts).
- Horse/Handler getting caught/tangled in lead (2pts).
- Horse stopping to eat (2pts).
- Whip makes contact with the horse (2pts).
- Not acknowledging the Judge (2pts).
- Not cantering on the correct lead (inside leg forward) (2pts).
- Horse looking to outside of circle (2pts).



Rule 12.10 HARNESS & Driving

The Australian Miniature Horse Society show Rules require that the Society follows the Rules and Regulations for the Harness and Driving Classes as adopted by the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. plus those supplemented by AMHS and outlined in this guide.

The rulebook of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. may be obtained directly from the Society.

Website: www.acds.org.au

Email: webmaster@acds.org.au

General Rules

- Horses must be sound.
- Correctly fitting breaching is compulsory in all classes except where 'Tilbury' or 'French' tugs are used. Vehicles fitted with open tugs must have breaching.
- An appropriate whip shall be carried at all times, the maximum length of which can reach the horses shoulder.
- Running martingales and overchecks are not permitted.
- ACDS accepted driving bits are compulsory for all classes.
- Blinkers are compulsory for all classes. Boot, wraps and earplugs are prohibited.
- Change of vehicle for classes in the same division is prohibited.
- No Junior Horse (under 3 years actual age) can compete in harness.

Safety Rules

- All persons competing in driving competitions must have safety foremost in their minds.
- A horse must never be left unattended while hitched to or being put into a vehicle.
- Competent adult co-drivers are recommended for all Youth classes.
- No Youth driver may drive a stallion.
- Passengers must enter the vehicle after the driver is seated with the reins in hand and passengers must dismount first.
- The arena layout shall have safe entry and exit gates and a collection area of appropriate width
- If the number of entries exceeds safety for the size of the arena, the class will be divided by the Show Manager into sections from which the best horses per section will return for a final drive off.
- No horse is to be hitched to a cart and driven for its first time at a show.

Ring Rules and Manners

A ten (10) minute maximum warm up period must be offered in the ring before the commencement of judging.

One adjustment of equipment by an attendant is allowed in the ring before judging commences.

- The Judge may excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle or equipment, or any unruly horse.
- Headers are optional in all classes excluding Youth where they are compulsory.



Rule 12.10 HARNESS & Driving Cont...

- Horses should enter the ring clockwise at a trot.
- After entering the ring drivers should take an inside track until all other competitors have entered.
- Driver must be on the rail ie. the outer side of the ring, as safely as possible.
- Drivers must drive at a safe distance behind the horse and vehicle in front.
- Driving between another competitor and the judge is deemed bad manners and should be avoided whenever possible.
- Passing is permitted by the inside or crossing the ring into space to ease congestion, but the driver must return to the rail immediately.
- A driver is permitted to talk quietly to their horse, but shouting and whistling is not permitted.

At the completion of judging and on instruction of the steward, the drivers should exit the ring in order of placings after a circuit of the ring, all in an orderly manner.

Rule 12.11 LONG REINING

The collected movement of a horse in long reins enables a judge to assess the horses' ability to display correct and fluent movements at the walk and trot and responsiveness to driver's instructions with a pleasant and obedient temperament.

Description of Event

The workout would require the execution of a number of different movements at a walk and a trot designed to indicate the degree of co-operation between horse and handler.

At a walk, or when trotting in a straight line, the handler should stay behind the exhibit or slightly to one side. When trotting in a circle the handler should either stand still in the centre or walk in a small circle following the horse.

Although preference will be given to exhibits that can demonstrate collected movements members are encouraged to enter even if their exhibits have not yet learnt to collect.

Exclusions

Horses under 2 years (actual age) are not eligible to compete.

Judges Guidelines

Credit will be given to an Exhibit that displays correct and fluent movement along with a pleasant and obedient temperament.

Credit will be given for the quality of movement and the fluency of transitions in the workout.

Penalties will be incurred for resistance whether subtle or obvious eg., rearing, bucking, kicking, biting, open mouth etc..

However an Exhibit that collects but shows some small resistance should be placed higher than an Exhibit that does not collect at all.

Presentation may be taken into account but this is considered to be of lesser importance.

Equipment

Any equipment not specifically mentioned is prohibited from use. The use of prohibited equipment will lead to an automatic disqualification (either before or after judging).



Rule 12.11 LONG REINING Cont...

Compulsory Equipment

Bits – egg butt, loose ring, tom thumb, snaffle (jointed or straight)

Reins – length to suite made of any safe material

Harness Saddle or Standard Roller with D rings (padded or plain)

Optional Equipment

Blinkers

Whips

Cavesson Noseband

Saddle Cloth

Leg Wraps

Crupper (recommended)

The Halt

At the halt the horse should be motionless, yet attentive, ready to respond promptly to the drivers aids. The horse should stand square, with weight distributed evenly on all four legs, fore and hind legs side by side.

The Rein Back

The aids for the rein back, or backing up, in harness are the verbal command "back" and a light pull on the reins.

In a correct rein back the horse engages its hindquarters and takes clearly defined backward steps.

To do this well the horse must first be on the bit and at least 'thinking forward' at the halt. If the horse is inattentive at the halt and not on the bit he is likely to back crooked and get above the bit.

The Walk

The free forward walk and collected walk should have hind foot stepping in prints of front hoof.

The Trot

Should be forward moving straight and even with knee action. Requires plenty of hind leg action using hocks to complement front movement and not just appearing to be running behind



Rule 12.12 LIBERTY

The objective of this class is to allow a horse to demonstrate its natural beauty as a Judge assesses the horse's style, grace, animation, gaits and presence as it performs to music.

Exclusions

Horses under 1 year (actual age) are not eligible to compete.

Description of Event

Exhibits are released in an enclosed arena to perform to a selected piece of music.

The time of the liberty is 90 Seconds and the Exhibitor must catch the Exhibit within 2 minutes of the music stopping or the Exhibit is disqualified.

Only one Exhibitor (who will wear the number) and one Assistant will be allowed in the arena with the Exhibit.

The Exhibitor and their Assistant are permitted to use whips and shaker bottles to encourage movement.

The Assistant may also assist the Exhibitor in catching the horse but if the Assistant touches the horse with aids or hands at any time the Exhibit will be disqualified.

Likewise, the Exhibitor may not touch the Exhibit with aids or hands as this will result in instant disqualification.

However, the Exhibitor is allowed to use their hands to catch and halter the horse after the music has stopped.

All horses must be safely haltered before leaving the arena.

Arena Requirements

Liberty may only be offered at shows where the facilities include an enclosed arena of suitable size and where the conditions would not be hazardous to the Exhibitor and/or horse.

The designated arena requires the following safety standards be met:

- The surface must be safe, and it must be even and not have any holes, surface water or mud present.
- The use of electric fencing, wire, tape or rope to mark the arena is prohibited.
- The walls of the arena should be a minimum height of 42 inches and of suitable construction so as to safely contain a miniature horse. Entry and exit gates must also be suitably constructed to ensure the arena is completely enclosed at all times during the performance. It is recommended that the gates be blacked out.
- The arena must be cleared. For example, items such as jumps and poles must be removed. It is recommended that the arena be blacked out.

Show management may at any time cancel the Liberty event if they deem the conditions unsafe for Exhibitors such as slippery conditions.

Public Announcements

The Announcer or Show Official shall publicly announce 10 minutes prior to the commencement of liberty that:

- There is no outside assistance allowed, silence must be observed throughout each performance and while the Exhibitor is attempting to catch the Exhibit.
- Applause is permitted only after the Exhibit has been haltered at the conclusion of its performance.
- The Announcer or Show Official shall repeat the above statement immediately prior to the commencement of the first performance.



Liberty Judge Guidelines

Horses will be judged beginning when the halter is removed by the Exhibitor and until caught by the Exhibitor. In assessing each Exhibit the Judge will consider the following criteria:

Style & Grace – 30%

Animation & Presence – 30%

Gaits – 20%

Music & Suitability – 10%

Catch – 10%

Disqualification

- If the Assistant touches the Exhibit with their hands or any aid they are using.
- If the Exhibitor touches the Exhibit with their hands or any aid they are using (except during catch)
- Failure to catch and halter the Exhibit within 2 minutes of music stopping
- Any assistance from outside the arena unless the Judge feels that the outside action was taken in an attempt to cause the Exhibitors horse to be disqualified or if the Judge believes the outside assistance was completely unintentional
- Assistant catching the horse
- Inappropriate dress by the Exhibitor or Assistant
- The use of plastic bags is not permitted.

Liberty Equipment

- Music is required to be provided by the Exhibitor (CDs are the preferred method).
- The Exhibitor must set the CD to the exact place for the Announcer/ Show Personnel to play.
- The CD must be clearly labelled with Exhibitor's name, the Exhibitor's number and the number of the required song.
- No reruns will be permitted for incorrect setting of CDs or mislabeled CDs.
- It is recommended that the Exhibitor only have the song that they wish to use on the CD.
- Whips are optional.
- Shaker bottles and other suitable, presentable aids designed to encourage movement are allowed.
- Exhibits are prohibited from wearing boots and bandages and should not be shod.

Exhibitors Dress

It is mandatory for an Exhibitor to wear appropriate attire. Management may bar any person from entering the ring if not suitably attired. Exhibitors and assistants should present themselves and turn out their horse in a manner according to the dress codes (Refer Show Rule 8.2).