



GENERAL RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF HORSES IN ACTION COMPETITIONS

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following definitions apply unless the context requires otherwise.

ASCSA

Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia Inc

Association

Association as defined by ASCSA's Constitution.

Business Partner

A person who is a party to contractual and/or verbal agreement between two or more persons carrying on a business or hobby venture.

Class

This is a particular competition advertised on an organisation/Member's program or schedule for the exhibition of animals or exhibits or the performance of competitors. This may be an individual event or a team event or any other combination.

Competitor

Includes an exhibitor, a person and a person riding/leading an animal in competition, at an official or non-official event, run specifically for the presentation of exhibits or the performance of individuals under a Judge for the purpose of competition.

Convenor

The person responsible for the smooth running of the classes in the respective competition. This is the person that an exhibitor would approach if they have a problem or query on or before the day of competition.

Constitution

Constitution means the Constitution of the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia.

Employer

A person employing/hiring another in a business.

Exhibit

Includes an exhibit and the combination of animal and competitor. The competitor may be the owner, lessee, or the representative of the said owner. Both animal and competitor must be eligible to compete in the particular class.

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Exhibitor

The person or persons owning the animal or exhibit which may include a lessee or representative of the said owner.

Family

Brother, sister, child, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, parents, grandparents, grandchildren. (Including in-law, step and defacto relationships.)

Knowingly

Acquainted with and/or aware of the truth and/or having been informed of the facts. Where this situation exists it shall be presumed that any breach is intentional.

Lessee

Where in possession of an animal or exhibit, but the ownership is not transferred to another person. Only leases registered with a Breed Society and/or Equestrian Organisation are recognised or, in the case of breed classes, leases registered with a Breed Society and copied to ASCSA Inc.

Member

Member means a body admitted to membership under the ASCSA Inc. Constitution.

Minutes

Minutes are the documented and approved true and correct record of all meetings of any Executive, Council, Committee, Sub-Committee, Show or Affiliated Organisation.

Owner

Owner/s are the person/s named as the owner on registration papers issued by a recognised Equestrian Organisation or Breed Society.

Representative

A person not being the owner or lessee, showing the animal or exhibit on behalf of the owner or lessee.

Rules and Guidelines

Rules and Guidelines means rules and guidelines made by the ASCSA Executive as amended from time to time.

Sale

An exhibit shall be deemed to have been sold or leased when the appropriate transfer of the registration papers has been processed by the appropriate registration authority or recognised Breed Society or when, after delivery of the exhibit to new owners, a receipt for payment in full has been issued. A sale is only recognised as fully complete when all the necessary paper work has been completed.

Show

An event held by ASCSA Inc., a Member or affiliated organisation involving traditional agricultural and/or horticultural type activities.

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Steward

A person assisting ASCSA Inc., a Member or affiliated organisation to manage exhibits or exhibitors at a Show.

Time Allotment

Months are calendar months.

Trainer/Instructor/Tutor/Coach

A person who trains and/or prepares animals and/or riders and/or handlers. A trainer may not necessarily receive reward for training and training may take place anywhere including Showground facilities.

Tuition/Coaching

Instruction of animals and/or a rider and/or a handler as an individual in a group of two (2) or more persons in a clinic situation. The rider and/or animal and/or handler cannot compete under competition conditions under that instructor within three (3) months from the date of the last tuition or vice versa.

RULES FOR SHOW SOCIETIES, JUDGES, STEWARDS, EXHIBITORS AND COMPETITORS AT AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Show Societies Guidelines to Rules

1. All Affiliated South Australian shows are conducted subject to the rules of the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia Inc, the constitution and rules of the member Society and any other regulation, which appears within the Schedule for individual sections of the Affiliated Show.
2. Should there be any conflict between the rules of the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia Inc., the constitution and rules of the member Society and the regulations appearing in any Schedule, the rules and regulations appearing in the schedule of the member Society shall prevail
3. Affiliated Show Societies shall establish additional rules and regulations pertaining to individual Show requirements.
4. These Rules should be included in affiliated Show Society Schedules where appropriate.

Conduct of Competitions

GENERAL

5. *Each Member, owner, lessee, competitor and/or exhibitor shall strictly observe and act in conformity with and not otherwise than in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules and Guidelines for the time being of the ASCSA Inc.*
6. *No Member, owner, lessee, competitor and/or exhibitor shall conduct themselves or be guilty of such conduct as to bring the ASCSA Inc. or any Member or affiliated society into discredit or bring themselves as an exhibitor or breeder or as a member into discredit.*

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7. The President, Steward and/or the Committee person in charge of any section of an individual Show shall have the right to refuse any entry by an Exhibitor without expressing reason at any time up to the commencement of judging of the section to which it applies.
8. The Society reserves the right to refuse entry to any stallholder if the Society reasonably believes that it is necessary to do so in order to ensure that the standard, quality and safety of the Show is maintained.
9. The President, Chief Steward and/or the Committee person in charge of any Section shall have the right to alter or amend the programme or the time of any event up to the commencement of judging.
10. An Affiliated Society will not under any circumstances hold itself liable for any accident, loss, damage or non delivery of livestock or other exhibits at the Society's Show, and it shall be a condition of entry that each exhibitor shall hold the Affiliated Society blameless and indemnify it against any legal proceedings arising through any accident, loss, non delivery or damage whatsoever.
11. Chief Stewards of an Affiliated Society shall have the power to remove exhibitors or other persons from the vicinity of the Judge while judging. Preferably shows should close off areas while judging is taking place, and only the Chief Steward, Judge and Stewards should be present.
12. The Judge's decision in any section at an Affiliated Show will be final.
13. All persons causing a nuisance by loud comments or the decision of the Judges of otherwise unseemly behaviour will, after being cautioned, be expelled from the Showgrounds, and in the case of exhibitors, be liable for disqualification.
14. Ribbons/Prizes/Place Cards will be awarded at the Judge's discretion notwithstanding that there may be provision in the schedule for the awarding of ribbons/prizes/place cards.
15. All Exhibitors must present their exhibit for judging at the appointed time and place. Judging shall not be delayed for an Exhibitor who is not ready and the Committee person in charge or Chief Steward of a section shall have the right to exclude and disqualify the exhibitor competing in that Section, who does not present on time.
16. If, in the opinion of the Committee person in charge or Chief Steward of a Section, any animal or exhibit is entered in the wrong class, the Committee person in charge or Steward of the Section shall have the power to enter the animal or exhibit in its correct class prior to the commencement of judging of that class.
17. Where there is an age limit on an Exhibitor, or animal, any of the following shall be accepted as proof of age:
 - (a) A Birth Certificate;
 - (b) A Driver's Licence;
 - (c) A Current Passport;
 - (d) Current Breed Registration Papers.
18. Judging cards and performance records shall be completed by the Committee person in charge, Chief Steward and/or the Judge of a Section (if required) during or immediately after the judging of the Section OR at the Judge's convenience.
19. A Society shall report to the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia Inc. any Judge who fails to attend a Show to which he or she has accepted an invitation to judge or, who has failed to

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- judge at the time advertised for the commencement of the class provided that the failure to attend or appear is without reasonable cause.
20. In Breed Classes, ALL animals must have current Registration and Ownership Certificates with the Breed Society.
21. In Breed Classes, registration papers (where applicable) must be available at the Show as proof of registration.
22. Any Exhibitor, Space Holder or Entertainer intending to bring electrical equipment onto the Affiliated Shows Showgrounds will be required to ensure that such equipment is fitted with earth leak circuit breakers and that all electrical leads, tools and appliances have been inspected by a licensed electrical contractor and currently tagged by a licensed electrical contractor. This is essential for the safety of all exhibitors and the general public, and is a requirement of the current Electrical Safety Regulations. The use of double adaptors is prohibited, and all power boards must be tested and tagged.
23. Where an animal is being led, ridden, worked and displayed, it is the responsibility of the owner/handler/rider at the time to ensure the animal does not become a public safety liability.
24. Energised electric fences are prohibited on the Showground at any time, unless in a specified area and suitably signed.
25. Rules for individual Sections at any Affiliated Society's Show, shall be as per the Schedule(s) and they shall be read in conjunction with the rules.
26. No Judge or Steward shall ask Competitors to swap animals at local shows.
27. Whilst all reasonable care is taken, the Affiliated Society cannot accept any responsibility for any losses and or damage or injury to or by any livestock, exhibits, equipment, vehicles or any other property whilst it is on the Affiliated Show Society's Showground.
28. It is considered good ethics that if a Junior Judge or Associate has been judging in his/her own right at any show, they are not eligible to enter the Young Judges competition at that show. BUT they can still enter at another show where they are not acting in a judging role.

PROTESTS

29. Any protest by an Exhibitor must be lodged in writing with the Committee person or Steward in charge of any Section within 20 minutes of the completion of the event together with a minimum fee of \$50 or as determined by the Committee of the Affiliated Society. The fee will be forfeited if the protest is considered to be frivolous or vexatious. The protest shall be heard according to the rules of natural justice by a Dispute Committee of three (3) appointed by the President of the Affiliated Show and the decision of the Disputes Committee shall be final.

JUDGES

30. Judges MUST be suitably attired when judging.
31. A Judge may not officiate, and compete or exhibit in the same Section at the same show unless exceptional circumstances exist such as sickness or unavailability of the appointed Judge.
32. A Judge shall not adjudicate at more than one show, where practical within 90 days within an Association unless judging different Sections. This rule applies to all Affiliated Agricultural Show Sections.
33. If a Judge is unable to fulfil a judging commitment, the Judge shall notify the Show Society as soon as possible so a replacement can be arranged.

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34. A Judge is ineligible to judge a competitor and/or an animal if:
- (a) The Judge is a member of the competitor's family, competitor's business partner, competitor's employee or employee of the competitor.
 - (b) The competitor has leased an animal to that Judge's family, Judge's business partner or Judge's employer within the six (6) months period preceding the day of competition.
 - (c) The competitor and/or the animal have been accommodated by the Judge, Judge's family, Judge's business partner or Judge's employer two (2) weeks prior to the day of competition.
 - (d) The competitor has been a Representative under competition conditions for the Judge, Judge's family, Judge's business partner or Judge's employer and his animal or any part of the combination within the six (6) months period preceding the day of competition. The animal may not necessarily have been owned by that Judge at the time of representation by the competitor.
 - (e) The Judge has been employed by the competitor, competitor's family, competitor's business partner in the six (6) months period preceding the day of competition.
 - (f) Either the animal being exhibited on that day or the competitor or the combination has been under tuition by the Judge, Judge's family, Judge's business partner or Judge's employer within the six (6) months period preceding the day of competition, unless in a group clinic situation which has been organised by others and not be the individual intending to compete.
35. Judges may not adjudicate more than once within 100km and 90 days of a show.
36. A Judge may direct a Steward to order any person or animal from the ring and the competition for bad conduct of one or both.
37. When an exhibitor or a competitor makes a request through a Show Official for the Judge's opinion concerning an animal, it is urged that the Judge will give an opinion courteously and sincerely. The Judge should ensure that the Show Official making the request to the Judge for an interview between Judge and the exhibitor or competitor remains present during all discussions with the exhibitor or competitor. However, there should be no fraternization between the exhibitor or competitor and the Judge until the Judge has finished officiating.
38. A Judge at a show shall not transport or accompany animals or competitors to the Show in the section that they are appointed to Judge.
39. A Judge shall be required to be familiar with the current ASCSA rules & guidelines.
40. A Judge may not visit the lines of animals, parking areas or stables or the owners in any social situation or inspect or discuss any animal entered in the Show until after they have finished officiating.
41. A competitor or exhibitor shall not exhibit under a Judge, nor shall a Judge adjudicate when the competitor or exhibit is ineligible under the rules.
42. A Show Official who is also a competitor or exhibitor shall not participate in any discussion on or selection of a Judge in any event in which he or she competes.
43. If a Judge judges or an exhibitor or competitor competes knowing an animal is ineligible one or all may be held in breach of the rules.
44. The Judge's decision as to the winners and place getters in a class shall be final. Only if an infringement of the rules is proved can the Show Officials change the places.
45. No competitor or exhibitor or member of their family shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision unless they first obtain the permission of the Show President or Secretary, Show Manager, Ring Master or Ring Steward the most senior of whom shall carry the decision on the day.
46. A judging panel for a championship shall be drawn from amongst the judge/s who judged the qualifying classes for that championship.

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- 47. If one Judge is unavailable, the Chief or Senior Steward must agree that judging may commence without a full panel.
- 48. A Judge shall not visit the livestock-housing complex of the Show Society, nor the owners, nor inspect or discuss any animal entered in the Show prior to or during the judging of the relevant section.
- 49. A Judge or Steward must not knowingly permit an ineligible Exhibit or Exhibitor to compete.
- 50. A Judge shall have no further information provided other than what is provided by the Affiliated Show Society.

EXHIBITORS

- 51. Exhibitors shall at all times, behave in a proper and courteous manner to Judges, Show Officials and other Exhibitors. Should an Exhibitor behave in an offensive or improper manner, the Committee person or Chief Steward in charge in the section shall have a right to exclude and disqualify that Exhibitor from competing in the Section.
- 52. All Exhibitors and/or grooms entering the showgrounds shall obey the lawful directions of the President, Committee, Stewards or employees of the Show Society, failure or refusal to do so, shall entitle the President of the Affiliated Society to disqualify the Exhibitor and/or his/her exhibit from competing at the Show and may order the removal of the Exhibitor and/or exhibit from the grounds
- 53. Competitors must be suitably attired when exhibiting.
- 54. Exhibitors must obey all lawful orders of the President, Secretary, the Committee person in charge or the Steward of the Section in which the Exhibitor is entered. Failure to abide by any such order may incur a fine of an amount to be determined by the President of the Affiliated Society or on the order of the President, the Exhibitor may be removed from the grounds together with the exhibit.
- 55. Exhibitors shall ensure that they and all animals are entered and shown in the correct class – BUT Stewards have the right to ensure exhibits are entered correctly.
- 56. An Exhibitor shall not compete in a Section if the Exhibitor is a member of the Judge's immediate family.
- 57. An Exhibitor shall not compete nor show any animal in a section if the animal has been owned or leased by the Judge or a member of the Judge's immediate family or if the Judge is the Exhibitor's employer or business partner.
- 58. An Exhibitor shall not compete if the Exhibitor or any animal being shown by the Exhibitor has been given tuition by the Judge or the Judge's business partner within six (6) months prior to or during the show. Schools/clinics are exempt from these rules.
- 59. An Exhibitor is ineligible to compete, if the Exhibitor has employed or has been employed by or has been a business partner of the Judge of the Section within six (6) months prior to or during the holding of the Show.
- 60. No Exhibitors shall deface or alter registration papers or performance cards for any exhibit.
- 61. No Exhibitor or members of the Exhibitor's immediate family or employed by the Exhibitor shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision made by the Judge unless they first obtain permission from the Committee person in charge or Steward of the Section.

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62. The Exhibitor shall ensure that they and their exhibit comply at all times with all statutes, regulations and by-laws applying to the Affiliated Show's Showground at the time of the show including but not limited to all animal health requirements.
63. Any competitor, who receives any physical or electronic communication aid during the judging of an event on an Affiliated Society's Showground, will have all nominations cancelled. The persons concerned may be asked to leave the Showground.

GENERAL HORSE REGULATIONS

64. Entries are accepted subject to the Rules, Regulations and any By-Laws of the Society in addition to the Special Rules which appear below.
65. No person under disqualification recognised by the Society may exhibit or compete.
66. Stallions are not permitted to compete in Hack Classes.
67. Parents, Guardians, or Strappers are not permitted in the horse arena during judging.
68. One (1) responsible person is allowed per entry for all Lead Line Classes.
69. A Convenor or Steward may at any time request a Person who does not appear to be able to ride or handle any horse, to dismount, allow other persons to handle the horse or leave the ring.
70. If requested, a competitor must produce documentation as proof of age.
71. The age of all horses to be calculated as at 1 August. Every horse foaled before 1 August in any year shall be deemed to be one (1) year old on that date.
72. Male horses under the age of three (3) years are defined as being Colts and female horses under the age of three (3) years are defined as being Fillies. These horses are not permitted to compete in the respective Stud Class for Stallions or Mares.
73. Horses, Galloways or Ponies entered in any class for which a prescribed height is a condition, must be measured by an Official Measurer who will issue a Certificate of Height. The Certificate of Height must be available on request. Official and current Measuring certificates from the Show Horse Council of Australia and Equestrian Australia will be accepted.
74. The President, Committee person or Chief Steward shall have power to turn out any horse and rider from the ring, in any class, if they deem it is not entered correctly, or give permission for it to enter the correct class.
75. Any Exhibitor who by themselves or any agent who:
 - (a) directly or indirectly presents a horse which has an identity other than its true identity;
 - (b) does any act or thing which is likely to result in a horse being incorrectly identified;
 - (c) does any act or thing which is likely to result in a horse being incorrectly measured;Is automatically disqualified from exhibiting.
76. Should a Horse, Galloway or Pony be found to be over or under height for the Class in which it is entered, the Chief Steward has the right to transfer to a corresponding Horse, Galloway or Pony Class.
77. All Riders and Attendants must be neatly and appropriately attired whilst in the judging ring. The Chief Steward has the right to exclude anyone from competing whose attire is inappropriate.
78. Judges and Stewards in all horse rings must be suitably attired.

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79. Any rider competing in events at an Affiliated Show, must wear protective headgear to the current Australian Standard. The retaining harness must be secured and fastened at all times. Riders without approved headgear shall be ineligible to compete until rectified; if request is ignored instant elimination from all events will occur.
80. Whilst in the main arena of any Affiliated Show's event, Exhibitors and competitors will be under the direction of the Convenor, Chief Steward and the Stewards in charge of the respective judging rings.
81. The Society accepts no responsibility if judging times conflict with one or more Classes or Events in which an Exhibitor may be entered. Where a conflict may occur, it is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to notify a withdrawal from either event. No ring shall be required to wait for a Competitor or Exhibitor who may be competing in another ring.
82. The excessive use of whips or spurs by any rider in any event or on the grounds will not be countenanced. Any person continuing the practice after being warned may be debarred from competing further in any event. Cruelty to horses is forbidden at any Affiliated Show event.
83. Any Competitor found guilty of committing a definite act of cruelty will be disqualified from taking part in all competitions of the event where the offence was committed.
84. The Chief Steward shall be the sole Judge or what constitutes cruelty and includes without limitation:
- (a) to whip or beat a horse excessively;
 - (b) to subject a horse to any kind of electric shock;
 - (c) to use spurs, or to jab the horse in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently;
 - (d) to rap a horse;
 - (e) to remount, or attempt to remount, an exhausted, lame or injured horse;
 - (f) to hypersensitise any part of a horse;
 - (g) to leave a horse without adequate feed, drink or exercise; and
 - (h) excessive exercise.
85. All Stallions and Colts must be correctly bitted and suitably restrained whilst in hand and the Judge/Ring Steward in Charge shall have the right to disqualify any exhibit, if in that Judge/Ring Stewards opinion, such exhibit is not able to sufficiently be controlled in a safe manner for judging to continue. The exhibit will be ineligible to compete in the Class in which it is entered or paraded and upon such disqualification the exhibit shall forthwith be removed from the judging ring.
- (a) All Stallions to be suitably restrained and if stabling not available they need to wear a collar and be securely tied.
 - (b) Stallions or Colts are not allowed to compete in open Hack Classes, A Stallion with only one descended testicle is a Monorchid, whilst a Stallion with no descended testicles is a Cryptorchid and both are classed as unsound in Stallion Classes.
86. A person must not administer a Prohibited Substance or cause one to be administered to an Exhibit, except as permitted by any By-Laws or Regulations.
87. The Exhibitor, Owner and Attendant of any Exhibit to which a Prohibited Substance has been administered is in breach of the By-Laws unless the Prohibited Substance is permitted by the By-laws or Regulations to be administered.

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88. An Exhibit to which a Prohibited Substance has been administered in breach of the By-Laws must be removed from the judging ring upon demand of the Affiliated Show Society.

89. The Affiliated Show Society, in its discretion and at any time, may cause an examination to be made of an Exhibit by a Veterinary Surgeon who, in the course of such examination, may:

(a) take such samples (including, without limitation, urine, blood, saliva and faeces) from such Exhibit as he considers necessary or advisable;

(b) have such samples tested by such methods and procedures as he considers appropriate;

(c) examine the Exhibit for desensitised limbs;

Procedures at rule 89 above are at the expense of the exhibitor/owner of the horse in question

90. Any Horse or Exhibit, Exhibitor, Owner or Person in charge of any Animal who appears to have had/have given a Prohibited Substance will definitely be debarred by the Stewards from competing in any event for which it may have been entered at the Affiliated Show, as all are deemed to have acted in breach of this By Law. If a Veterinary surgeon is required all expenses for same are the responsibility of the Exhibitor, Owner or Person in charge.

91. The Affiliated Society and any Steward or Agent of the Society shall not be liable to an Exhibitor for the death of, or for injury, damage or infection which may be sustained by his/her exhibit occasioned by or arising out of any act or omission of any Steward, or Agent of the Society during the course of the testing of the Exhibit, whether due to the negligence of any such Steward, Agent or otherwise.

92. 'Prohibited Substance' means any substance originating externally to an animal (and whether or not endogenous to the animal) capable of affecting the performance of the animal by its action upon:

(a) the central or peripheral nervous system;

(b) the cardiovascular system;

(c) the respiratory system;

(d) the alimentary digestive system;

(e) the musculo-skeletal system;

(f) the urogenital system; or

(g) the endocrine system.

AND INCLUDES WITHOUT LIMITATION:

(a) analgesics;

(b) anti-histamines;

(c) anti-inflammatory agents;

(d) blood anti-coagulants;

(e) diuretics;

(f) hormones and their synthetic counterparts;

(g) cortico-steroids;

(h) anabolic steroids;

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- (i) local anaesthetics;
 - (j) muscle relaxants;
 - (k) tranquillisers;
 - (l) antibiotics;
 - (m) stimulants; and
 - (n) glues and bleaches.
93. Whilst all reasonable care is taken, the Affiliated Show Society cannot accept any responsibility for any losses and/or damage or injury to or by any livestock exhibits, equipment, vehicles or any other property whilst on the Showground's.
94. Any exhibitor intending to bring electrical equipment onto the showgrounds will be required to ensure that such equipment is fitted with earth leakage circuit breakers and that all electrical leads, tools and appliances have been inspected and tagged by a licensed electrical contractor. This is essential for the safety of all exhibitors and the general public.
95. Energised electric fences are prohibited on the Showground at any time, unless in a specified area and suitably signed.
96. Any persons causing a nuisance by loud comments, or the decision of the Judges or of otherwise unseemly behaviour will after being cautioned, be expelled from the showgrounds, and in the case of exhibitors, be liable for disqualification.
97. It is the responsibility of the Owner or Person-in-Charge of the animals to have a current Property Identification Code and to report this code when placing entries.
98. Any Affiliated Show running under ASCSA Rules and Regulations has the right to refuse other horse associations swabbing any horse on their grounds, except where the Agricultural show is affiliated with another horse organisation, only that horse organisation may also be allowed to conduct swabbing. In this case, all costs associated with swabbing will be borne by the horse organisation.
99. For any rules not covered in this document, the society has the right to refer to the rules of the Show Horse Council of Australia to determine whether a breach has occurred.

Some Standard Procedures

100. Once judging has commenced, a competing horse shall not be led, ridden or driven into or out of the judging ring without the permission of the judge and/or the convenor
101. If a led horse should drag or escape its handler and leave the ring it is usually disqualified from the class.
102. A fall of exhibit or rider/driver in any ridden or harness class will result in disqualification from that class. The rider must not remount or the driver get back into the harness vehicle inside the ring.
103. The awarding of equal placings is customarily avoided because of the difficulties it can cause in Championships. The exception is that some Show Societies encourage the awarding of multiple third and fourth ribbons to all remaining competitors in the more junior children's riding classes.

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104. The Champion in a group of classes is selected from the First Place winners from each of the eligible classes. Equal Champions are never awarded.
105. The Reserve Champion is selected from the remaining First Place winners after the Champion is selected PLUS the Second placegetter/s from the class/es from which the Champion came.
106. Competitors are expected to maintain and support the same ethical standards as judges. This means, for example, that a competitor who wished to speak to a judge would be expected to make his/her approach through the convenor or steward and, if a competitor found that his/her appearance in a class would create an infringement of the Judges Code of Conduct, he/she would be expected to withdraw or risk being declared ineligible.
107. Because country shows are very much reliant on voluntary workers in most or all roles for their financial survival, they usually can only offer travel reimbursement and/or accommodation to visiting officials.

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COMPETITOR/EXHIBITOR/EXHIBIT ELIGIBILITY

108. The Competitor/Exhibitor/Exhibit is INELIGIBLE to compete if:

- a) 1. The Competitor/Exhibitor is a family member of the Judge officiating in any event in which he/she intends to compete.
- 2. The Competitor/Exhibitor is an immediate family member of the Judge officiating in hack and/or riding classes at the show where he/she intends to compete, in any Hack and/or riding class (regardless of who may be judging).
- b) The horse has been owned or leased by the Judge, or a member of his family, or his employer or employee, or business partner/partner within the last 12 months.
- c) The Competitor/Exhibitor/Owner or his family has provided accommodation or transport for the Judge immediately prior to or during the Show or vice versa. This Rule extends to cover a current Landlord/Tenant relationship.
- d) Any part of the combination (horse or rider) has been given tuition by the Judge or a member of his family or business partner/partner within the last 6 months. Schools/clinics are an exception to this rule.
- e) The Competitor/Exhibitor has given the Judge or a member of his family tuition within the last 6 months. Conducting of clinics, schools or assistance in Group activities such as Pony Club, shall not be considered as tutoring. Individual or Group lesson/s given in a school situation, where schools are conducted on a regular basis (within a 3 month period) with the same instructor, will be considered tutoring.
- f) The horse has been agisted/boarded with the Judge or the Judge's employer or employee or business partner/partner within the last 6 months.
- g) The Competitor/Exhibitor has employed or has been employed by or has been a business partner/partner of the Judge within the last 6 months.
- h) The Competitor/Exhibitor has trained a horse owned or leased by the Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partner within the last 12 months.
- i) The Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partner has shown a horse in joint names with the Competitor or a member of the Competitor's/Exhibitor's family within the last 12 months.
- j) The Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partner has ridden a horse for the Competitor/Exhibitor or a member of the Competitor's/Exhibitor's family, or the Competitor/Exhibitor or a member of the Competitor's/Exhibitor's family or business partner/partner has ridden a horse for the Judge or a member of the Judge's family within the last 6 months.
- k) The Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partner has ridden the horse in a Rider or Turnout class and/or in any competition within the last 6 months, or the Competitor/Exhibitor or a member of the Competitor's/Exhibitor's family or business partner/partner has ridden a horse owned by the Judge or the Judges family in a Rider or Turnout class and/or in any competition, within the last 6 months.

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Code of Conduct for Horse Judges

109. A judge should reply promptly to an invitation to judge at a show and, having made the commitment, honour it. If a judge is, at short notice, unable to officiate, he/she should inform the show secretary immediately. In this circumstance, while it is helpful to suggest a substitute, it is the prerogative of the Show Society to arrange any substitute.
110. A judge must not solicit judging appointments and should not accept too many appointments during any one show season.
111. Because judges are representing themselves at the particular Show Society, they should always be punctual and look their best, being correctly and neatly clothed in riding apparel or smart dress attire. Gentlemen should wear a coat and tie and ladies should dress to a similar standard. Both ladies and gentlemen should wear hats when judging outdoors and suitable footwear. Jeans, t-shirts, windcheaters, sports shoes and thongs are not considered as suitable standards of dress.
112. A judge's conduct and behaviour should be beyond reproach and a judge must exhibit propriety and integrity when judging events and be unbiased and fair. He/she must at all times be polite and act in a respectful manner to competitors, spectators and show officials.
113. While conducting a ring, the safety of the competitors, spectators and stewards must be the judge's first consideration.
114. A judge must not accept hospitality from an exhibitor immediately before or during a show and must not visit any owner or exhibitor or inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show except in the ring until judging at the show has been completed.
115. A judge cannot judge
- (a) and exhibit in the same show
 - (b) the same section within 100km radius within a 90 day period
 - (c) in any section in which immediate members of his/her family are competing
 - (d) an exhibit which the judge or his/her immediate family has bred
 - (e) a progeny group sired by a stallion or out of a mare owned by the judge
 - (f) an exhibit where the judge or his/her immediate family have been rewarded in cash or kind for tuition of either part of the combination(horse or driver/rider/handler) in the previous 6 months
 - (g) an exhibit where the competitor/exhibitor has been employed by or has employed the judge in the previous 6 months
 - (h) an exhibit owned, produced or driven by a person whom the judge or his/her immediate family have or had a business partnership (excluding stud fees) within the previous 6 months
 - (i) an exhibit which the judge or a member of his/her immediate family sold to the exhibitor in the 12 months preceding the show or event
 - (j) an exhibit which the judge or a member of his/her immediate family have or have had a financial interest in during the previous 12 months
 - (k) an exhibit produced, ridden or driven by a person who has carried out those duties for the judge in the previous 12 months

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- (l) an exhibit owned by an exhibitor for whom he/she has produced exhibits in the previous 12 months
 - (m) an exhibit or exhibitor with whom they travelled to attend the show
 - (n) a competitor or exhibit that is ineligible under the rules
116. A judge must not refer to a show catalogue or steward's list either before or during judging, nor can a judge be in possession of a show catalogue whilst in the ring. Referring to the schedule is of course permissible.
117. A judge should not discuss any exhibitor's animal's faults with stewards or other competitors
118. A judge may direct his/her steward to order any person from the ring for improper conduct or any other proper cause, including any act of unreasonable discipline or cruelty towards a horse.
119. A judge has the discretion to ask that a led or performance exhibit and handler/rider/driver be ordered to leave the ring if he/she considers the animal is unruly and/or likely to cause an accident.
120. Where a judge is aware the judging of an exhibit is an infringement of any rule, then the judge must refrain from judging that exhibit and draw the attention of the steward and convenor to the issue.
121. A judge may request an exhibit to be measured.
122. A judge may refuse to judge any exhibit he/she considers to be unsound.
123. A judge may withhold an award if, in his/her opinion no animal is worthy of the award.
124. A judge has the discretion to agree or to refuse to discuss his/her opinion of an exhibit with an exhibitor but should only agree to enter such discussion if the request comes through the steward or convenor.
125. A judge should ensure that a steward or other show official is present during any discussion with an exhibitor and should give his or her opinion courteously and sincerely while refraining from engaging in debate.
126. Once a judge has judged a class, he/she should not re-judge it even if placings are affected by ineligibility and require official alteration.
127. A judge's decision representing his/her individual preference is final and cannot be the subject of protest, except where ineligibility is determined.
128. A judge may lodge a written complaint concerning the behaviour, demeanour, dress, condition and the like (in respect of the exhibitor or exhibit) to the relevant show secretary but should inform the secretary of the impending complaint before leaving the show and submit the written complaint within 10 days.

THE CONVENOR

Is responsible for the smooth running of the Rings and would be the person a competitor would approach if they had a problem or query on the day.

129. Be appropriately dressed for the standard of the Show, the weather conditions and be clearly identifiable as the Convenor.

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130. Arrive in plenty of time to brief the Stewards and Judges. Ensure the Ring set up is satisfactory for smooth running of the Show and that ribbons, trophies, result sheets, pens, clip boards etc are on hand. Make sure that there are seats in the rings for the Judges and Stewards.
131. The Convenor has total control of the ring and should have the authority to make any decisions that are necessary to maintain control.
132. The Convenor should endeavour to keep the ring/s running to time. A word in the steward's and/or judge's ear may be necessary through the day. In the case of a clash of classes every effort should be made to allow an exhibitor to compete, however, in fairness to other Competitors the Ring/s should not be held up unnecessarily.
133. The Convenor must be seen at all times to keep strictly to all rules and regulations without favouritism.
134. The Convenor must be approachable to everybody but maintain a firm control.
135. The Convenor must keep up with showing trends, new terminology and its meaning and be determined to stamp out any activity detrimental to the show.
136. The Convenor should have a good knowledge of the Rules and have knowledge of individual breed guidelines.
137. The Convenor must have full knowledge of the Show's rules & regulations as printed in the schedule, including procedure for the solving of official protests.
138. If a Protest is received by the Convenor, he/she shall immediately call together the Disputes Committee which has been appointed to adjudicate such matters.

THE RING STEWARD

Assists by carrying out the Judge's directions in relation to Competitors movements in the Ring, recording results and being the go-between if a competitor wishes to approach a Judge.

139. Be appropriately dressed for the standard of the Show and the weather conditions.
140. Be on time - minimum of 15 to 30 minutes before the advertised starting time of section.
141. Report to the Secretary's Office and the Convenor
142. Be familiar with the schedule and the conditions of each class. Ensure the Judge is aware of these details also.
143. Be aware of time allocated to classes - if times are specified in schedule make sure that class does not start before that specified time.
144. Ensure that all exhibits are brought before the Judge, break Class up into Heats if necessary

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145. Avoid conversing with the Judge during judging process. An exception is when the Judge requests a particular function to be noted. The Ring Steward should not voice their opinion to the Judge on the merits of an exhibitor/competitor.
146. Hand the ribbons to the Judge to award at completion of the class judging. Ensure that the results are recorded correctly. i.e. The correct Show name of horse, name of owner, name of rider in Riding Class, etc
147. Some shows may use numbers rather than taking names so ensure that the correct number is taken.
148. Ensure that proper decorum is kept in the ring and that unauthorised persons do not enter. If unauthorised persons enter the ring, judging must be halted until they leave.
149. Should an incident arise between the Judge and a Competitor relating to the judging of a Class and/or the result, record the incident and advise the Convenor and Show Secretary as soon as possible.
150. A Judge can withhold the award of a 1st prize if he/she is of the opinion that the exhibit is not worthy of the prize.
151. On completion of the Ring, return the results and any unused ribbons and Awards immediately to the Secretary's Office.
152. At lunchtime and at the completion of judging, accompany the Judge to the area set aside for refreshments.