

SHOW HORSE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALASIA Inc.



Part I COMPETITION RULES

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www.showhorsecouncilaust.com.au

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1.0 APPLICATION OF THESE RULES

Any breach of these Rules may result in DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

- 1.1 These Rules shall apply to ALL Competitions conducted by the SHCA and/or an Affiliate of the SHCA and/or to ANY SHCA Affiliate's Member and/or his/her Horse, when competing at ANY Show. Where a member/competitor is under the age of 18 years, at least one parent or legal guardian must be a member of a SHCA Affiliate or Constituent Affiliate.
- 1.2 These Rules shall apply in their entirety to any person who is a Competitor/Exhibitor/Owner/Lessee/Rider/Handler/Responsible Officer/Owner's Agent/Judge and/or to any Horse that competes at any Show conducted in accordance with the SHCA Competition Rules. It is the responsibility of all persons aforementioned to ensure they are familiar with these Rules. It is the absolute liability of those persons to participate in accordance with these Rules. Ignorance of a Rule shall not be accepted as a defence to an infringement of any Rule listed herein.
- 1.3 In accordance with these Rules, at any show, a Horse, Rider, Handler must be eligible, at the time of competition, to compete in any class/event that such Horse, Rider, Handler is/has entered. Any Horse, Rider, Handler must not compete in any class/event if any ineligibility exists.
- 1.4 These Rules shall be read in conjunction with THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY that apply to any Show that is conducted or recognised by the SHCA. At any recognised Show, the Conditions of Entry for such Show shall be binding on any Competitor/Exhibitor/Owner/Lessee/Rider/Handler Responsible Officer and/or Exhibit.
- 1.5 Reciprocal recognition of SHCA Membership
A member may only be a current and financial member with one SHCA Affiliate at any one time. (Refer to SHCA Constitution on Transfer Clauses).
Where SHCA Membership is a condition of Entry to a SHCA Event the following shall apply:
 - (a) GENERAL EVENT: Current Membership of any SHCA Affiliate shall be recognised for Entry to an Event being conducted by another SHCA Affiliate.
 - (b) STATE EVENT: Current Membership of a SHCA Affiliate within a State shall be recognised for Entry to an Event being conducted by another SHCA Affiliate within that State.
 - (c) NATIONAL EVENT: Current Membership of any SHCA Affiliate shall be recognised for Entry to a SHCA National Event.
 - (d) Proof of membership (i.e. current membership card or copy of membership payment receipt or evidence of membership on SHCA database) shall be provided at the time of Entry to these Events.
- 1.6 Infringement of any Rule may result in the Show Horse Council imposing disciplinary action against the offender.

1.7

- (a) According to these Rules, where an offence is investigated and the Show Horse Council determines that there has been a breach of these Competition Rules, it may impose such disciplinary action as it considers to be appropriate, including without limitation
 - 1) a reprimand
 - 2) a monetary fine (payable at such time as the Show Horse Council may determine)
 - 3) withdrawal and/or withholding any award or prizemoney
 - 4) disqualification
 - 5) suspension and/or banning the offender from competition
 - 6) where an exhibit (horse) is involved in any incident where disciplinary action is imposed, such exhibit may incur a ban from entry in any Official Show Horse Council Event for such period as determined by the Show Horse Council
 - 7) suspension and/or termination of membership and/or privilege/s for such period as determined by the Show Horse Council, including Registrations, Transfers, Lease etc.
 - 8) any other penalty provided for in other Regulations of the Show Horse Council. e.g. Drug Rules.
- (b) The Show Horse Council may recognise and act upon any notified Disciplinary action found proven, and/or Penalty imposed by
 - 1) any Royal Show Society
 - 2) a Breed Society
 - 3) a Body with which a horse is registered
 - 4) The Agricultural Societies Council of N.S.W. Inc.
 - 5) any other similar Society, Organisation or Body, on any Person or Exhibit.
- (c) While any Person or Exhibit is under any SHCA imposed and/or recognised suspension or ban and/or where any SHCA issued fine is unpaid, the suspended Person or Exhibit will be ineligible to enter or compete in any Official Show Horse Council Competition. Any horse owned by a suspended or banned member may not be transferred during the period of Suspension or Ban.
- (d) Under any suspension imposed by the SHCA, the member is still required to abide by all rules, regulations and obligations imposed by the SHCA and its Affiliates during the suspension period.
 - 1) Any member that has served a suspension period does not have their rights removed from them under suspension reinstated until such time as they pay any required membership fee, fine or fulfil any requirement required by SHCA as part of the penalty imposed.
 - 2) If such conditions are not fulfilled within one calendar month of the completion of the suspension period, that person's membership and/or judging accreditations shall be terminated and the Member will be required to re-apply.

1.8 **Publication of Results and Disciplinary Procedures**

- (a) The Show Horse Council may publish to:
 - 1) all Royal Show Societies in Australia
 - 2) the relevant Breed Society
 - 3) the Body with which the exhibit is registered, or is eligible for Registration
 - 4) The Agricultural Societies Council of N.S.W. Inc.
 - 5) any other similar Society, Organisation or Bodythe result of any Disputes/Disciplinary action where a person has been found to have breached any Show Horse Council Competition Rule, General Rule, Regulation or Special Rule.
- (b) The Show Horse Council shall have no liability to any person in respect of any publication referred to in paragraph a).

1.9 **Non-Liability of the Show Horse Council**

No person shall have any claim against the Show Horse Council, or member of Council, employee or agent of the Show Horse Council in respect of any act, matter or thing done in good faith during or in connection with the proceedings before the Disputes and Disciplinary Committee.

- 1.10 These Rules shall be read in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of the Show Horse Council. The SHCA reserves the right to interpret these Rules where any dispute arises.

2.0 **REGISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP**

- 2.1 All horses competing in SHCA events, at the time of entry, must be registered with the National Saddle Horse Register.
- 2.2 A hack must be at least three (3) years of age at the 1st August in the year of competition to compete in ridden classes at Official Shows.
- 2.3 The person/s named on the horse's Registration Certificate is/are considered the Legal Owner/s.
- 2.4 No falsification of information, ownership or markings are permitted. Penalty/s shall apply.
- 2.5 Any defaced or altered Certificate or any Certificate containing false information shall be deemed to be invalid.
- 2.6 Where a Certificate is found to be incorrect, the matter must be reported to the Show Horse Council and the Certificate returned to the Registrar.
- 2.7 Any invalid Registration Certificate shall render the horse ineligible to compete at any Official Show.
- 2.8 All horses competing in official competition shall be named as per the name on its NSH registration Papers.
- 2.9 Where a horse holds a National Saddle Horse Registration and such horse is leased, a SHCA Lease Document shall be submitted to the Show Horse Council Registrar for recording. All benefits and penalties relating to a leased horse shall be attributed to the lessee.
- 2.10 Registration Papers remain the property of the Show Horse Council and may be recalled on request.
- 2.11 For Show Horse Council purposes, in relation to any Application/Transfer/Lease Document relating to NSH Registration, if all information and signature requirements have been provided according to the Rules, the authenticity of the Papers shall not

be challenged.

3.0 COMPETITOR/EXHIBITOR PROTOCOL

- 3.1 It is the Competitor's/Exhibitor's responsibility to ensure eligibility for a class.
- 3.2 Where any ineligibility to compete may occur, the Competitor/Exhibitor (not the Judge) should withdraw from the Show/Competition/Event.
- 3.3 A Competitor/Exhibitor/Owner should not compete under any Judge where a breach of these Rules may occur. It is the responsibility of the Competitor/Exhibitor to ascertain who the Judges are of any Show/Competition/Event they intend to compete in. Where a conflict may occur, the onus, in the first instance, is on the Competitor/Exhibitor to abide by the Rules and withdraw from the Show/Competition/Event. In the second instance, a Judge should not knowingly judge an ineligible entrant. Ignorance will not be accepted as a defence for breach of the Rule.
- 3.4 The Competitor/Exhibitor shall produce their SHCA (Affiliate/Association) Membership Card, Horse Registration Certificate and/or Measuring Certificate for inspection on request of a Show Official or as required by Show Schedule, and/or when competing in any SHCA recognised Show.
- 3.5 A Competitor/Exhibitor or a member of their family shall not approach a Judge with regard to a decision, unless they first obtain permission from the Ringmaster or the Ring Steward who may arrange an appointment with the Judge, at an appropriate place and time. The Judge or Official may refuse the request. A representative of the organising body shall remain present during any such discussion/meeting.
- 3.6 Once judging has commenced, a competing horse shall not be led or ridden in or out of the ring without permission of the Judge and/or Ringmaster.
- 3.7 No rider/horse can compete unofficially or non-competitively.
- 3.8 A Competitor/Exhibitor/member shall at all times behave in a proper and respectful manner to Judges, Show Officials and their fellow competitors and not engage in conduct that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- 3.9 Any act of cruelty, excessive discipline or mistreatment of a horse at a SHCA Event will result in disqualification from the event and is reportable for Disciplinary action. Refer Rule 11 Cruelty to Horses.

4.0 JUDGE'S BEHAVIOUR AND PROTOCOL

- 4.1 A Judge shall not knowingly judge an ineligible exhibit.
- 4.2 A Judge shall not VISIT the horse lines, Owners or Competitors nor INSPECT or DISCUSS any horse entered in the Show prior to completion of judging at the Show.
- 4.3 The Judge's decision shall be final, except where any ineligibility is determined.
- 4.4 When a Judge is unable to fulfil a judging commitment, he shall notify the appropriate Show official as soon as possible.
- 4.5 The Judge shall not appoint a substitute Judge. Only the organising body may appoint a substitute Judge.
- 4.6 An official Show Horse Council Judge shall be reportable to the Show Horse Council for failure to:
 - (a) Attend a Show to which he is committed

- (b) Adjudicate in assigned classes
 - (c) Appear on a Showground in time for the advertised commencement of his section, without a reasonable explanation
 - (d) Adhere to the Competition Rules and SHCA Judges Scheme.
- 4.7 The Judge should ensure that a Steward is present during any discussions with a competitor.
- 4.8 A Judge shall not discuss the sale, purchase or lease of any horse until the completion of the Show.
- 4.9 A Judge shall not adjudicate at two or more Shows within the same A.S.C Group boundaries within thirty (30) days unless judging different sections. Judges are strongly urged to refrain from accepting too many appointments during a show season.
- 4.10 A Judge shall at all times be polite and act in a respectful manner to Competitors, Spectators and Show Officials & shall not engage in conduct that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- 4.11 A Judge may direct his steward to remove any person or horse from the competition for bad conduct.
- 4.12 A Judge shall not judge at any Show where a horse owned by him or an immediate Family member/business partner/partner is competing or taking part, Breed Classes being exempt from this Rule.
- 4.13 When a competitor makes a request through the Steward or Ringmaster for the Judge's opinion, it is urged that the Judge give his opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Ring Steward or other Show Official. A Judge should refrain from making derogatory comments.
- 4.14 There will be no fraternisation between Competitor and Judge during the Show.
- 4.15 A Judge shall not solicit judging appointments.
- 4.16 SHCA Official List Judges officiating as a Judge at ANY Show are not permitted to use mobile phones or smoke whilst they are in the Ring.

5.0 COMPETITOR/EXHIBITOR/EXHIBIT ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 The Competitor/Exhibitor/Exhibit is INELIGIBLE to compete if:
- (a) The Competitor/Exhibitor is a family member of the Judge officiating in any event in which they intend to compete.
 - (b) The Competitor/Exhibitor is an immediate family member of the Judge officiating in hack and/or riding classes at the show where they intend to compete, in any Hack and or riding class.
 - (c) The horse has been owned or leased by the Judge, or a member of the Judge's family, or their employer or employee, or business partner/partners within the last 6 months.
 - (d) The Competitor/Exhibitor/Owner or their family has provided accommodation for

the Judge immediately prior to or during the Show or vice versa. This Rule extends to cover a current Landlord/Tenant relationship.

- (e) Any part of the combination (horse or rider) has been given tuition by the Judge, or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partners within the last 6 months.
- (f) The Competitor/Exhibitor has given the Judge or a member of the Judge's 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.
- (g) The horse has been agisted/boarded with the Judge or the Judge's employer or employee or business partner/partners within the last 6 months.
- (h) The Competitor/Exhibitor has employed or has been employed by or has been a business partner/partners of the Judge within the last 6 months.
- (i) The Competitor/Exhibitor has trained a horse owned or leased by the Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partners within the last 6 months.
- (j) The Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partners has shown a horse in joint names with the Competitor or a member of the Competitor's/Exhibitor's family within the last 6 months.
- (k) The Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partners has ridden or trained 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/partners has ridden a horse for the Judge or a member of the Judge's family within the last 6 months.
- (l) The Judge or a member of the Judge's family or business partner/partners has ridden the horse 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 any competition, within the last 6 months.

5.2 The onus is on the Competitor/Exhibitor to ensure that the Horse/Rider/Handler is eligible for any class entered and/or competed in. However, where a Judge knowingly permits an ineligible person or exhibit to compete under him, all parties (Judge, Exhibitor and Competitor) will be held in breach of the Rules.

5.3 It shall be the Competitor's/Exhibitor's responsibility to ensure the horse or rider is eligible and competes in the correct class.

5.4 A Horse shall be shown at the height shown on its current Measurement Certificate. Any horse not issued with a current Measurement Certificate may be required to be measured prior to competing in any Official Show.

5.5 A Horse shall be entered and shown in its full registered name. Falsification of any information on any documentation (including entry forms) supplied to the SHCA shall be considered a Breach of Rules.

5.6 The Competitor/Exhibitor must not make erroneous statements regarding an exhibit.

5.7 Stallions shall not compete in Hack, Riding or Turnout classes. Stallions should compete

in specific stallion classes. Breed classes may be exempt from this Rule.

6.0 CLASSES AND AWARDS

6.1 A horse will carry its performance for LIFE regardless of whether it changes height division or class division i.e. Open Saddle Horse or Show Hunter.

6.2 Once a horse has competed as a Hack/Saddle Horse or a Show Hunter at its first SHCA competition (excluding Grand National) in a calendar year it must remain as a Hack/Saddle Horse or a Show Hunter at SHCA competitions for that calendar year. Grand National is a stand-alone event and is therefore excluded from this requirement given that the qualifying period is the preceding calendar year. If a horse qualifies for Grand National, it must compete in the section in which it is qualified.

6.3 Grand National Qualifying Show classes

Champion and Runner Up to be awarded in each class as below.

(a) Saddle Classes

Lead Rein Pony not exceeding 12hh rider 3yrs & under 8yrs, the handler must be an Adult Active Member

Small Pony not exceeding 12.2hh

Large Pony over 12.2hh and not exceeding 14hh

Small Galloway over 14hh and not exceeding 14.2hh

Large Galloway over 14.2hh and not exceeding 15hh

Small Saddle Horse over 15hh and not exceeding 16hh

Large Saddle Horse over-16hh

Lead Rein Show Hunter Pony not exceeding 12hh rider 3yrs & under 8yrs, the handler must be an Adult Active Member

Small Show Hunter Pony not exceeding 12.2hh

Large Show Hunter Pony over 12.2hh and not exceeding 14hh

Small Show Hunter Galloway over 14hh and not exceeding 14.2hh

Large Show Hunter Galloway over 14.2hh and not exceeding 15hh

Small Show Hunter Hack over 15hh and not exceeding 16hh

Large Show Hunter Hack over 16hh

(b) Children's Classes

Childs Ridden Shetland Pony not exceeding 10.2hh to be registered with APSB (rider under 14 years)

Childs First Ridden Saddle Pony not exceeding 12.2hh (rider 5 years & under 12 years)

Childs First Ridden Show Hunter Pony not exceeding 12.2hh (rider 5 years & under 12 years)

Childs Small Pony not exceeding 12.2hh (Rider under 18 years)

Childs Large Pony over 12.2hh and not exceeding 14hh (Rider under 18 years)

Childs Galloway over 14hh and not exceeding 15hh (Rider under 18 years)

Childs Saddle Horse over 15hh (Rider 12 years and under 18 years)

Childs Small Show Hunter Pony not exceeding 12.2hh (Rider under 18 years)

Childs Large Show Hunter Pony over 12.2hh and not exceeding 14hh (Rider under 18 years)

Childs Show Hunter Galloway over 14hh and not exceeding 15hh (Rider under 18 years)

Childs Show Hunter Hack over 15hh (Rider 12 years and under 18 years)

(c) Rider Classes

- Rider 6 years and under 9 years (mount not exceeding 14hh)
- Rider 9 years and under 12 years (mount not exceeding 15hh)
- Rider 12 years and under 15 years
- Rider 15 years and under 18 years
- Rider 18 years and under 21 years
- Rider 21 years and under 30 years
- Rider 30 years and over

6.4 Non-Grand National Qualifying Shows recommended classes, Champion and Reserve Champion to be awarded in each Section

- (a) Small Open Pony or Show Hunter Pony:
 - Not exceeding 12hh
 - Over 12hh and not exceeding 12.2hh
 - Option - Lightweight and Heavyweight Classes
- (b) Large Open Pony or Show Hunter Pony:
 - Over 12.2hh and not exceeding 13hh
 - Over 13hh and not exceeding 13.2hh
 - Over 13.2hh and not exceeding 14hh
 - Option - Lightweight and Heavyweight Classes
- (c) Small Open Galloway or Show Hunter Galloway:
 - Over 14hh and not exceeding 14.2hh
 - Option - Lightweight and Heavyweight Classes
- (d) Large Open Galloway or Show Hunter Galloway:
 - Over 14.2hh and not exceeding 15hh
 - Option - Lightweight and Heavyweight Classes
- (e) Small Open Hack or Show Hunter Hack:
 - Over 15hh and not exceeding 15.2hh
 - Over 15.2hh and not exceeding 16hh
 - Option - Lightweight and Heavyweight Classes
- (f) Large Open Hack or Show Hunter Hack:
 - Over 16hh and not exceeding 16.2hh
 - Over 16.2hh
 - Option - Lightweight and Heavyweight Classes
- (g) Lead Rein Pony Class or Lead Rein Show Hunter Pony Class. Pony not to exceed 12hh rider 3yrs & under 8yrs, the handler must be an **Adult Active Member**.
- (h) Lead Rein Rider Class. Pony not to exceed 14hh rider 3yrs & under 8yrs, the handler must be an **Adult Active Member**.
- (i) Tiny Tots Rider Class. Pony not to exceed 14hh rider 3yrs & under 6yrs, the handler must be an **Adult Active Member**.

6.5 Led classes for Mares and Geldings, in each height section, are an option.

6.6 MINOR CLASSES

Classes such as NOVICE, NEWCOMER, INTERMEDIATE, PRELIMINARY, LADIES, GENTS, RIDDEN BY A CHILD, AMATEUR etc. are suggested in addition to the classes stated in Grand National Qualifying Show classes (definitions below).

- (a) A NEWCOMER hack is one that has not been shown or competed under saddle,

(racing excepted), prior to the 1st of January in its first year of being shown or competing. Once shown under saddle, such horse ceases to be a Newcomer on the 31st of December that same year. All horses in Newcomer classes shall be shown in a snaffle bit.

- (b) A MAIDEN hack is one that has not been placed in any Individual ridden hack class at any Official Show.
- (c) A NOVICE hack is one that has not been placed 1st in any Individual open ridden hack class at any Official Show. This Novice definition also applies to Show Hunter & Working Hunter horses in the relevant competition.
- (d) An INTERMEDIATE hack is one that has not been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Individual ridden hack class at any Royal Show, and including the R.N.A. Bathurst, Toowoomba, Launceston and Geelong Royals. This Intermediate definition also applies to Show Hunter & Working Hunter horses in the relevant competition.
- (e) A PRELIMINARY hack is one that has not been placed 1st, Champion or Reserve in an Open ridden Hack class/event at any Royal Show including the R.N.A., Bathurst, Toowoomba, Launceston, and Geelong Royals, or has never been the Winner or Runner Up at the Grand National, any State HOTY Title or has never been the Winner of any HOTY Intermediate or Preliminary Title. This Preliminary definition also applies to Show Hunter & Working Hunter horses in the relevant competition

- 6.7 It is recommended that where the number of entrants permit, a minimum 1st, 2nd, 3rd placings are awarded in a class.
- 6.8 The Champion will be selected from the 1st place winners from each of the eligible classes. Under no circumstances shall a Judge award equal Champions.
- 6.9 The Reserve Champion will be selected from the remaining 1st place winners and the 2nd placegetter/s from the class/s which supplied the Champion.
- 6.10 Supreme Champion will be according to the Show's schedule.
- 6.11 A Judge officiating at an Official Show is under no obligation to award 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place (any placing) if he considers such placing not up to standard.
- 6.12 Judges officiating at Official Shows are asked to avoid awarding equal placings.
- 6.13 Except where any ineligibility is officially determined, the Judge's decision is final. A Judge's decision representing his/her individual preference cannot be protested.
- 6.14 All classes, including Champion, in one division/section should be judged by the same Judge. Where more than one Judge comes together to judge, at least one should have judged the winner/s that compete for Champion.

7.0 RIDER CLASSES

- 7.1 A Junior Rider is under 12 years of age.
 - (a) At Shows conducted in accordance with the Show Horse Council Rules, the mount of a Rider used in a Rider under Nine (9) years Competition shall be restricted to not exceed a height of 14hh.
 - (b) The mount of a Rider in Nine (9) years and under Twelve (12) years Competition shall be restricted to not exceed a height of 15hh.

- 7.2 A Senior Rider is 12 years and under 18 years of age.
- 7.3 An Adult Rider is 18 years of age and over.
- 7.4 A Novice Rider is one who has not won a 1st in an individual class at an Official Show. On attaining the age of 18 years a successful Junior may compete as a Novice Adult.
- 7.5 Judges officiating in Riding Classes should not ask riders to change horses.
- 7.6 Age eligibility is determined by the age of the Rider on the first day of Competition.
- 7.7 Tiny Tots Class, rider aged 3yrs & under 6yrs. The handler must be an Active Adult member

8.0 ATTIRE – COSTUME

- 8.1 No State Representative or Award Badge/s from any similar organisation shall be worn or attached to the riding attire of any exhibitor and/or competitor at ANY Show Horse Council event.

8.2 CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

To be worn in Riding, Hack and Hunter Classes where the age of the rider is restricted to under 18 years of age.

Hacking jacket – Traditional or double vented.

Open Classes – Plain Colour, tasteful style and trim.

Show Hunter Classes – Tweed or similar conservative colour.

Jodhpurs neutral in colour. Joddy Clips acceptable.

Jodhpur boots - (brown or black in colour).

Collared shirt with tie, ruffled shirt, ratcatcher, stock.

Helmet with safety Harness (meeting recognised Safety Standards).

Hair should be neat & tidy. Girls – hair net, hair ribbons, scrunchie optional.

Optional - Cane, Crop, Spurs, Vest, Gloves – leather or string backed.

8.3 ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OVER – INFORMAL

Hacking jacket – Traditional or double vented.

Open Classes – Plain Colour, tasteful style and trim.

Show Hunter Classes – Tweed or similar conservative colour.

Breeches or Jodhpurs – neutral in colour.

Long boots or Jodhpur Boots – black or brown in colour.

Shirt and tie, ruffled shirt, ratcatcher, stock.

Permitted: Hard Hat, Bowler, Top Hat, or a Safety Helmet with chinstrap that meets recognised safety standard. Hair should be neat & tidy.

Optional - Cane, Crop, Spurs, Vest, Stock, Gloves - leather or string backed, Hair Net, Scrunchie.

- 8.4 **WORKING HUNTER CLASS ATTIRE** – Refer to working hunter class section 18.

- 8.5 **TURNOUT** – refer to Section 10 in Show Horse Council Guideline to Showing.

- 8.6 **JUDGES** – Refer to the Judges Code of Conduct for dress code and protocol

A Judge may dress in a riding outfit or smart dress attire. When judging outdoors both ladies and gentlemen should wear a hat. A hat is optional when judging indoors. A gentleman should also wear a coat and tie.

Attire should always be clean, tidy, and appropriate for the competition being judged.

It is advisable to wear suitable shoes. Windcheaters, tee shirts, jeans, running shoes, thongs etc are not considered to be acceptable standards of dress.

8.7 STEWARDS AND OFFICIALS

Attire should always be clean, tidy, and appropriate for the competition or Show. It is essential to wear suitable closed in shoes, as per insurance requirements, and advisable to wear a hat for outdoor Shows.

9 SADDLERY AND GEAR PROTOCOLS

9.1 Martingales, any kind of gadgets (tongue ties, bearing, side, running, balance reins etc), any kind of boots or bandages, any form of blinkers are forbidden. Bits that can be used are types of Simple Snaffle, Wilkie or Baucher, Pelham, Weymouth Bit & Bradoon. No other bits are permitted.

9.2 Lead Rein and First Ridden Classes - a simple snaffle (egg butt or rings only) with a cavesson noseband must be used. A narrow strap may be attached to the front of the saddle. Reins must go direct from pony's mouth to the rider's hand, not be threaded through a monkey grip or obstructed in any way.

(a) Lead Rein – A leather lead rein to be held by the handler in the left hand and attached to the cavesson noseband. The handler may carry a cane not to exceed 40cm. **The rider must not carry a whip and spurs are not permitted.**

(b) First Ridden Classes – The rider may carry a cane not to exceed 40cm. Spurs are not permitted.

9.3 Whips must have a leather keeper at least 5cm long and 2cm wide and must not exceed 72cm in length, inclusive of the leather keeper (flap).

9.4 Dummy or Roller Ball Spurs not exceeding 2cm in length are permitted. Any other type of spur is not permitted.

9.5 Prohibited, unsafe, cruel, ill-fitting, or unsuitable gear or saddlery must be replaced or removed at the request of the Judge, Ringmaster or Show Official. Failure to comply with such a request will mean the horse and/or rider is ineligible to compete.

9.6 SHOW HUNTERS

(a) Saddlery to be workmanlike, clean, neat, and well-fitting.

(b) Bridle, snaffle or double, with plain/plaited headband and cavesson.

(c) Plain sheepskin numnah or half pad.

(d) Crop, leather or cane and not exceeding **72cm** in length, inclusive of leather keeper (flap).

10 IMPROPER BEHAVIOUR/DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND UNRULY HORSES

- 10.1 Improper behaviour/disorderly conduct by either Judge, Show Official, Competitor, Exhibitor or other related person is reportable to the Show Committee. Any incident shall then be reported, in writing, within seven days, to the Show Horse Council. Incidents reported to the Show Horse Council should be accompanied by written signed reports from those involved and from witnesses where possible.
- 10.2 Any Competitor/Exhibitor or any other person who, in the opinion of the SHCA Show officials, has caused annoyance by loud or unseemly comment upon the decision of a Judge, or upon any act or omission on the part of a Judge, or of any Official on duty in or about the Ring at the time of Competition, may be expelled from the Class and the Showground. If the Show Horse Council is satisfied that a person's behaviour has been unseemly or willfully insulting to a Judge or Official, or Competitor/Exhibitor the person shall be considered in breach of these Rules and, as such, disciplinary action shall be imposed. Where the Show Horse Council is satisfied that improper behaviour has occurred, by the same person, on more than one occasion, such person shall be prohibited from attending any Official Show Horse Council Events for such period as the Show Horse Council may determine.
- 10.3 A Show Official, a Ringmaster and/or a Judge may request any unruly horse be removed from the ring and/or grounds. The competition should not continue until the horse is removed as requested.
- 10.4 Incidents relating to objectionable conduct and or unseemly behaviour by:
- (a) a Competitor towards a Judge, Exhibitor or Spectator
 - (b) an Exhibitor towards a Judge, Competitor or Spectator
 - (c) a Judge towards a Competitor, Exhibitor or Spectator
 - (d) a competitor towards a fellow Competitor
 - (e) a Judge towards a fellow Judge
 - (f) an Official towards a Judge, Exhibitor, Competitor or Spectator
- arising from a competition (either before, during or after such competition) shall be reportable and may result in disciplinary action. The Show Horse Council shall only consider such incidents when it receives in written and signed reports from those involved and from witnesses where possible.

11 CRUELTY, DISEASED/INJURED HORSES

- 11.1 A Show Official, Ringmaster or Judge may request that any diseased/injured/lame, mistreated, neglected, or distressed horse be removed from the ring and/or the ground.
- 11.2 Any alleged act of cruelty to a horse competing or present at a Show should be reported as soon as possible to the Ringmaster or Show Official.
- 11.3 Any witness to an act of cruelty should submit a written statement to the Show Horse Council. The statement should, if possible, be accompanied by signed declaration/s from (at least) two witness/es.
- 11.4 The Show Committee will report any allegation of cruelty to the Show Horse Council in

the form of a written report. An act of cruelty shall include but not be restricted to excessive &/or sustained use of a whip or other form of excessive discipline, inflicting pain or injury, prolonged exercise resulting in distress to a horse, unsafe securing, or handling of a horse, competing with or exercising a clearly lame horse or being negligent in the care of an injured or sick horse.

12 DRUG TESTING / DRUG AND TREATMENT RULES

The principal elements of SHCA Drug Testing & Treatment Rules are:

- *The welfare of the horse*
- *The level playing field*

- 12.1 It is the intention of these Rules that at any Official Show and/or SHCA event, all horses shall perform, at the time of competition, without any Prohibited or Banned substance/s within their system.
- 12.2 Each of the Responsible Officer, Owner and the Competitor/Exhibitor must ensure that the horse for which they are responsible is, at the time of Competition in any Official Show, free from any drug or prohibited substance. Penalties as adopted herein shall apply to any breach of this Rule. It will not be a defence to any charge relating to the breach of this Rule that the Owner, Competitor/Exhibitor or Responsible Officer may have not known that the horse was not free from a prohibited or banned substance.
- 12.3 The responsible Officer must be over 18 years of age, where the owner of a horse is under 18 years a Parent or Guardian shall be the Responsible Officer.
- 12.4 Where a Responsible Officer is not declared, or is not present at the Show, the Owner and the Competitor/Exhibitor shall be considered responsible.
- 12.5 The Responsible Officer/Owner/Competitor/Exhibitor will ensure that, at the time the horse is drug tested, a suitable person will attend as a witness, to act for him/her, and to sign on his/her behalf any drug testing documents. In any absence the Responsible Officer/Owner/Competitor/Exhibitor will, in all respects, remain accountable according to these Rules.
- 12.6 TREATMENT FORM & MEDICATION RULES
- (a) At any SHCA Official Show where Drug Testing is carried out, a SHCA Treatment Sheet is required to be lodged (as per requirements of the Competition Rules and Show Rules) for any horse that has been administered any Treatment, Foreign Substance, Medication, Drug, Prohibited or Banned Substance within 30 days prior to and/or on the day of competition.
- (b) The onus is on the Responsible Officer/Owner/Competitor/Exhibitor to lodge a Treatment Sheet for any horse they have entered/ competed in any Official Show and/or SHCA event where Drug Testing is to be carried out.
- (c) The Treatment Sheet shall be completed IN ALL RESPECTS and lodged as per the requirements of the Treatment Sheet & as the Rules of the Show specify, where possible no later than 24 hours prior. Any supporting Veterinary information, as required by the SHCA and/or the Show's Rules, must be submitted along with the Treatment Sheet and within the time prescribed.
- (d) An incomplete or incorrect Treatment Sheet may be rejected and if that occurs the

- Exhibit shall be ineligible to compete.
- (e) Where a Treatment Sheet is lodged, the Ringmaster will advise the Exhibitor/Responsible Officer of the Ground Jury's decision, in consultation with the swab vet, as to whether the horse will be permitted to compete.
 - (f) Lodging of a Treatment Sheet Form does not release an Exhibit from being Drug Tested, nor from Disciplinary Action by the SHCA should a positive result to a Prohibited or Banned substance occur.
 - (g) FAILURE TO SUBMIT A TREATMENT SHEET in accordance with these Rules, the Rules of the Show, and the Treatment Sheet, shall be considered a BREACH OF THESE RULES and penalty/s will apply.
 - (h) It is the obligation of the Owner and/or Responsible Officer and/or Exhibitor of the horse, and not the SHCA, to ensure that the horse is eligible to compete.

12.7 The Show Horse Council may carry out random testing for drugs at any Official Show and/or SHCA Show/Event at any time and may cause to be made any test of any exhibit to determine whether any Prohibited or Banned Substance has been administered to the exhibit and may detain such exhibit for such period as deemed reasonable from the time of selection to procure the samples. The method of selection to be consistent and transparent.

- (a) The collection of samples may involve the collection of urine and/or the taking of blood.
- (b) Compliance with this Rule is mandatory to all exhibits when competing at any Official Show and/or SHCA event.
- (c) Refusal to submit an exhibit for drug testing shall be deemed a breach of these Rules, resulting in disqualification and/or disciplinary action and/or penalties as determined by the Show Horse Council.

12.8 Drug testing shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant Laboratory Sample Collection Procedure Regulations.

12.9 SET PENALTIES FOR DRUG OFFENCES

The following Penalties apply for the detection in urine, blood, or other samples of a Prohibited or Banned Substance:

- (a) **LEVEL 1:** Detection of a Prohibited Controlled Substance

LEVEL 1	FINE	SUSPENSION/ BAN OF HORSE &/OR OFFENDER/S	AWARDS	PLACING	SUSPENSION/ BAN from SHCA Committee &/or SHCA Judges List
1st Offence	\$500 + GST	3 months of Competition	Loss of	Loss of	3 months
2nd Offence	\$500 + GST	6 months of Competition	Loss of	Loss of	6 months
3rd Offence	\$1,000 + GST	12 Months of Competition	Loss of	Loss of	12 months

Further Level 1 Offence: Proceed to Level 2, 2nd Offence.

- (b) **LEVEL 2:** Detection of a Prohibited Banned Substance

LEVEL 2	FINE	SUSPENSION/ BAN OF HORSE &/OR OFFENDER/S	AWARDS	PLACING	SUSPENSION/ BAN from SHCA Committee &/or SHCA Judges List
1st Offence	\$1,500 + GST	12 months of Competition	Loss of	Loss of	12 months
2nd Offence	\$2,500 + GST	24 months of Competition	Loss of	Loss of	24 months
3rd Offence	\$5,000 + GST	24 months of Competition	Loss of	Loss of	24 months

12.10 If an offence is proven as a result of a positive swab, the cost of drug testing and any associated costs to the Show Horse Council will be applied to the offender.

12.11 The Show Horse Council reserves the right to consider waiving of Penalties if special circumstances warrant.

12.12 Publication of Results in relation to Penalties imposed arising from Drug Testing shall be in accordance with Competition Rules 1.6 (a) and 1.7 (a) .

12.13 The non-payment of a Fine and/or costs, as imposed by the Show Horse Council shall, at the discretion the Show Horse Council, debar the person in breach of payment and incur a review of any prior imposed Penalty/s. (A warning of such action and set date of inquiry will be given).

13 CONDUCT OF A SHOW

CONDUCT OF A SHOW by a SHCA Affiliate must be approved/sanctioned by the Council to be recognised as an Official SHCA Event.

13.1 Prior to the Show, the Organising Committee should write to the officiating Judge/s confirming:

- (a) Date of Show
- (b) Starting Time
- (c) Expenses which will be paid
- (d) Accommodation arrangements
- (e) Travel arrangements

13.2 Prior to the Show, the Organising Committee should forward to the Judge/s:

- (a) A copy of the program or timetable
- (b) Gate passes, meal tickets
- (c) Directions to the Show Grounds/show location address

13.3 On the day of the Show, the Judge should be provided with at least one steward and all refreshments.

13.4 The Organising Committee is obliged to provide a suitable area in which events can be conducted. The area should be:

- (a) Sufficiently remote from other activities to ensure riders and/or mounts are not endangered in any way, either directly or indirectly, by other activities.
- (b) A suitable environment in which a "hack" could reasonably be expected to

- perform.
- (c) Of sufficient dimensions to provide a reasonable work-out area for the type of event being judged. A full assessment of the site should be undertaken to ensure the safety of competitors, exhibits, spectators and volunteers.
- 13.5 The Show Horse Council recommends that all Judges be paid out of pocket and or travelling expenses, as well as overnight accommodation where necessary. Any further remuneration is strongly discouraged as Show Societies are non-profit organisations and expenses should be kept to a minimum.
- 13.6 **Heats and Finals** – the number of competitors paraded before the judge/s. Where there are large numbers of entries in a class, it is necessary to judge the class in heats. The number of competitors paraded at one time should not exceed 12. For example, if there are 30 competitors in the class, the class would be judged in 3 heats of 10 competitors. The judge would make their selection of horses they wish to view in the finals from each heat and those selected would be judged in the final.
- 13.7 The exception is GN qualifying classes where all entrants work out before the judges. Heats may be required but must follow rule 13.6 in relation to numbers of competitors on the ring.
- 13.8 In GN qualifying classes all horses must be paraded on the ring in a heat before the judges.

14 GRAND NATIONAL QUALIFIER SHOWS

- 14.1 **SHOW CRITERIA CATEGORIES** – For a show to be a Grand National Qualifying Event, it must come under one of the following categories.
- (a) A State Capital Royal Show.
 - (b) A State Horse of the Year Show (HOTY) conducted by the SHCA or a Constituent Affiliate.
 - (c) A SHCA approved Show conducted by a SHCA Affiliate: the level of competition to be of high standard with the location of the Show to be of benefit to SHCA Members.
 - (d) A stand-alone SHCA Affiliate Youth Day Competition that has approved Grand National qualifier status applied to those classes in line with Grand National Children's Classes and Grand National Rider Classes for riders under the age of 17 years.
 - (e) Shows of recognised esteem and long standing, where the standard of competition is comparable with a HOTY or a major Royal Show.
 - (f) Royal Shows other than State Capital Royal Shows and State Agricultural Shows where the level of competition is of a high standard.
- 14.2 **CRITERIA FOR GRAND NATIONAL QUALIFIER STATUS**
- (a) Meeting the Application criteria does not guarantee that a show will be accepted as a GN Qualifier. The SHCA reserves the right, without recourse, at its discretion, to admit, revoke or reject the acceptance of any Show as a Grand National Qualifier.
 - (b) At the December Meeting of the SHCA the current Qualifiers are considered, providing all requirements have been met these Qualifier Shows are endorsed for the forthcoming year. New Applications for future acceptance are then put

forward for consideration; acceptance is at the discretion of the SHCA. Taken into consideration will be the number of Qualifiers within a State, any clash of dates with other Qualifiers, impact on existing Qualifiers etc.

- (c) New Applications received after the December meeting may be considered at the June Meeting of the SHCA.
- (d) New Applicants shall complete The Grand National Application Form, and the SHCA events sanctioning document and The Grand National Policy Document for submission to the Council.
- (e) For acceptance as a Grand National Qualifier the Show must meet one of the Show Criteria Categories and agree to adhere to the Mandatory Requirements.

14.3 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- (a) At the time of Entry for the Grand National qualifying event all horses nominated must be registered with the National Saddle Horse Register.
- (b) At the time of Entry and competition for the Grand National qualifying event all Exhibitors/Owners/Lessees/Responsible Officers/Riders shall hold current relevant membership status of the SHCA and /or its Constituent Affiliates.
- (c) Any irregularity or non-compliance with SHCA membership or NSH Registration at the time of competition at the GN qualifying event may render a rider or horse ineligible for Invitation and/or acceptance. This is applicable to any GN qualifying event including those conducted by SHCA, an affiliate or Royal Show.
- (d) All exhibits shall hold a current Show Horse Council Provisional, Annual or Life Measurement Card/Certificate that is appropriate to the class or section in which the Horse is to compete or be measured at the Show, prior to competing.
- (e) The height is to be identified on the Breast Plate and validated by a show Official to confirm eligibility for Entry in the Class. The Breast Plate to be checked by the Marshal/Ring Steward for compliance and eligibility prior to the horse entering the Ring to compete at the Show.
- (f) Qualification to compete at the Grand National will only be extended to the Winners/Runners Ups of Open, Rider and Child's Sections of Grand National Qualifying classes that are relevant and in line with the Horse and Rider Events as listed in the Grand National Show Schedule.
- (g) Where it is found that any of the Mandatory Requirements have not been met, the SHCA may, at any time, without assigning a reason, cancel a Show's status as a Grand National Qualifier.
- (h) The SHCA does require that Drug Testing be carried out at shows that are accepted as GN Qualifiers.
- (i) Where fees collected from participants at a SHCA event are specified as being for swabbing/drug testing, then all such fees collected are to be spent where possible directly on the conducting of swabbing/drug testing at that event. A Pro Forma report to be provided to SHCA on Tests carried out, monies collected and expended.
- (j) If a Body does not conduct Drug Testing at a Grand National Qualifier the acceptance of the Show in this case will be at the discretion of the Show Horse Council.
- (k) The Show Secretary should ensure all results are electronically recorded in the SHCA Database. In the event of having to resort to Manual process all results should be digitally recorded as soon as possible.
- (l) With exception of Royals, all SHCA Qualifiers to be in the same format.
- (m) Classes as per Grand National format – No Finals – All to work. All horses and riders

must work on the ring prior to individual workouts.

- (n) Three Judges to adjudicate each Open, Show Hunter, Lead Rein & Rider Class.
- (o) Optional to use one or up to three Judges for Childs/Shetland/First Ridden Classes.
- (p) All Qualifiers to adopt a plan for a Marshalling area where horses are marked off and can continue to warm up with access to helper if needed. A separate exclusion area should be provided to allow next horse to warm up before entering the Ring.
- (q) Rules and regulations to be drawn up as specific to that GN qualifying event and should include details of rules relevant to classes being held at that event.
- (r) Performance criteria is not to be applied to HOTY events.
- (s) A SHC Youth Day Competition that has approved Grand National qualifier status, for GN Children's Classes and GN Rider Classes for riders under the age of 17 years, may be open to entry by all members of an Affiliate/Constituent Affiliate of SHCA Inc or may be restricted to entries from members of an Affiliate/Constituent Affiliate of the State or Territory in which the event is being held. **Note:** On the day of competition, the child identified on the entry will be the only person permitted to ride the horse nominated for that entry prior to the Class being held.
- (t) All horses eligible to compete at the Grand National Saddle Horse & Riding Championships will be required, at the time of Entry for the Grand National be registered with the National Saddle Horse Register, the name of the owner/s agreeing with NSH records and GN online Show Entry data for the horse.
- (u) At the time of Entry for the Grand National qualifying event all Exhibitors/Owners/Lessees/Responsible Officers/Riders shall hold current relevant membership status of the SHCA and/or its Constituent Affiliates.

14.4 JUDGE SELECTION CRITERIA will operate for all Grand National Qualifying Shows conducted under the jurisdiction of the SHCA.

- (a) Shall have extensive Judging experience, credibility, and a high level of personal presentation.
- (b) Shall not have judged more than (2) two Grand National Qualifying Events, which may include a Royal but held in different States, in any Calendar year.
- (c) Nominated Judges of Grand National Qualification Classes shall be selected from the SHCA Royal/National Show List.
- (d) Nominated Judges of Non-Grand National Qualification Classes shall be selected from either the current SHCA General or Royal/State/National Show Judges Lists, with the exception of Off the Track/retired racehorse classes or as approved by Council.
- (e) Interstate judge selections to equal or predominate in number. e.g., 2 out of 3, 2 out of 4, 3 out of 6
- (f) In NSW, judge selections shall not be made if the Judge resides closer than 100km in distance to the Event.

14.5 FINAL JUDGE SELECTION PROCESS for SHCA Affiliates in N.S.W. (or Interstate if requested) that have been granted approval to conduct a Grand National Qualifying Event.

- (a) Council requests Affiliates to supply the name of one qualified first choice Judge together with one second choice Judge for each section of the respective Show in accordance with the above Judge Selection Criteria process.
- (b) Judge names shall be provided in writing to the Judges Coordinator with copy to the Secretary (letter or recorded in Affiliate's minutes) a minimum of three days prior to the meeting at which the selection process is to be undertaken.

- (c) At the designated time (Agenda Item) at the meeting at which the respective judge selection process is to be undertaken the Judges Co-ordinator shall submit the authenticated selections.
- (d) All nominated first choice Judge names are to be displayed (placed on white board or similar) under each section for which they were nominated by Affiliates.
- (e) The Council Chairman shall request Delegates to review listed names and identify any that, in the opinion of any Delegate, do not meet the criteria for the classes/show for which they were nominated. If the delegates present at the meeting agree, any such name shall be removed from the list. Should an Affiliate's first choice be removed from the list that Affiliate's second choice name may be added should that name be suitable to the meeting.
- (f) The Judge selection process for each section will be undertaken by a draw from all names remaining listed under that section.
- (g) There shall be minimum of four (4) first choice Judge names and four reserve Judge names drawn (each being two from within the State and two from Interstate).
- (h) To establish availability of Judges, the person nominated to contact the Judges shall do so at the earliest opportunity, this approach to be from first choice List in order of the committee's preference. If unsuccessful, the Reserve List may then be turned to with the same selection process being followed. Should the drawn First choice Judges or Reserve Judges of the Section be unavailable then unused drawn Judges or Reserves from remaining Sections may be approached in order of committee's preference.

14.6 PROCEDURAL TIMELINE for conduct of Grand National Qualifier Shows in N.S.W. & ACT (or Interstate if requested).

- (a) Judge Selection: The Council to undertake selection process at least three (3) months prior to the approved Show date. Cancelled or rescheduled Shows are exempt from this Rule with selection in first instance to be taken from all previous submissions for that Show.
- (b) Appointment of Council Measurer(s), SHCA Representative and Steward(s): event organising committee to make appointments at least one month prior the approved Show date.
- (c) Appointment of SHCA Representative to Ground Jury: Council to make appointment at least one month prior to the approved Show date.

15 RESIDENCY & OTHER RULES APPLYING TO STATE HORSE OF THE YEAR EVENTS

15.1 All horses shall be currently registered with the Show Horse Council of Australasia Inc. NATIONAL SADDLE HORSE REGISTER and shall have resided in that State for a period of not less than three (3) calendar months prior to closing date of Entries. As at the closing date of entries all Riders, Handlers and Responsible Officers shall have resided in the State for a period of not less than three (3) calendar months and be financial members of an Affiliate/Constituent Affiliate of the Show Horse Council of Australasia Inc.

15.2 Members residing within 100km of the border would be able to remain a member of the current affiliate club and with provision of a Statutory Declaration to be able to compete at the adjoining state's "Horse of the Year Show". Proof of distance to be provided annually.

The States will need to monitor those HOTA Entries that are acceptable under this Rule

to ensure compliance.

Note: Entries not meeting the criteria will be considered ineligible.

15.3 Eligibility

- (a) A horse can only compete at one States Show Horse Council of Australasia Inc. Affiliated Horse of the Year Event in a calendar year.
If ANY Horse has competed in another State's SHC Horse of the Year Show held in a calendar year, it is ineligible to compete in ANY Section in that States SHC Horse of The Year Show.
- (b) A rider or handler can only compete at one States Show Horse Council of Australasia Inc. Affiliated Horse of the Year Event in a calendar year.
If a Rider has competed in another State's SHC Horse of the Year Show held in a calendar year, he/she is ineligible to compete in the RIDER Section of that States SHC Horse of The Year Show. If a handler has competed in another State's SHC Horse of the Year Show held in a calendar year, he/she is ineligible to compete as a handler in ANY Section of that States SHC Horse of The Year Show.

16 GROUND JURY

- 16.1 A Ground Jury should be appointed for all Official events. It is suggested that the Ground Jury consists of the Ringmaster, members of the organising committee and a person who knows the Competition Rules. The Judge of the section concerned may be consulted.
- 16.2 The Ground Jury reserves the right to change any Judge, programming or other as considered necessary and will adjudicate on any protest and/or dispute and will act on matters as set down in these Rules and the Rules applicable to the Show for which they are appointed.
- 16.3 Where necessary, the Ground Jury will report to the Show Horse Council of Australasia, or the relevant constituent affiliate committee as applicable.

17 PROTESTS

- 17.1 A protest can only be placed for alleged violations of the Rules.
- 17.2 At an Official Show, any protest shall be in writing to the ringmaster and shall be made in accordance with the procedure set down in the Rules and Regulations of that event.

18 WORKING HUNTER

A Pony, Galloway, or Hack that is of Hunter type and competes in a specific Class that requires working on the flat and over jumps.

- 18.1 SADDLERY & GEAR PROTOCOL FOR WORKING HUNTERS.
 - (a) Turnout for working hunter classes is similar to a show hunter class, however an all-purpose or jumping saddle may be used.
 - (b) All horses/ponies are to be ridden in a simple biting such as a simple snaffle, double Pelham with either double or split reins (either is permissible especially for children). Bits such as gags, tongue ties or any specialised types of biting for control are not permissible.

- (c) Whips must be a maximum length of 72cm inclusive of thong and/or lash if a hunt whip is carried.
- (d) No bearing reins, side or running reins of any kind are permitted. A correctly fitted running martingale is allowed in the jumping section, however it will be at the Judge's discretion whether this may or may not be marked down.
- (e) Protective boots (horse) are permissible for the Jumping Phase ONLY.
- (f) No change of saddlery is allowed between, or during, phases, except for the removal of boots and running martingale for the flatwork and Conformation Phases.
- (g) Competitors should ensure a groom is on hand to remove these as quickly as possible.
- (h) There are three phases to be contained within the working hunter class.
 - 1) Jumping Phase
 - 2) Flatwork Phase
 - 3) Conformation Phase

These phases may be judged in three separate phases or combined, depending on the preference of the Judge on the day.

- (i) At the completion of the class, the total scores from all phases are added together to produce a mark out of one hundred. Places are awarded according to these final scores and as such, the competitor with the highest mark will be the eventual winner. In the event of equality of marks the Judge will choose a winner from the two highest placed horses. The Judge's decision in all cases is final.

18.2 WORKING HUNTER CLASS ATTIRE

Hacking Jacket - Tweed or similar, conservative colour.

Shirt and Tie, Ratcatcher Shirt or Stock are also acceptable

Breeches or Jodhpurs neutral in colour.

Long Boots or Jodhpur Boots, Black or brown in colour Safety Helmet with chinstrap that meets recognised Safety Standard.

19 DEFINITIONS

In all Show Horse Council General Rules, Competition Rules, Measuring Scheme Rules, any Guidelines, Minutes of Meetings etc, the following shall apply:

AMATEUR – A person who, for the past two years, has not received any fee, sponsorship, gift, or reward or be or have been in any way subsidised or reimbursed for his/her services connected in any respect whatsoever with Coaching, Training, Riding or Showing of any horse for any other person. An award or prizemoney or trophy won as a prize in an official competition shall not affect Amateur status.

AMATEUR COMPETITION – The horse shown in an Amateur Class must be owned & exhibited by the Rider who is an Amateur and/or a member of the Rider's Immediate Family, for a period of not less than three months. The horse must not have been shown, or ridden or trained by a non-Amateur, within the previous three months.

CLASS – A saddle class, a riding class, a led class etc. A combination of classes is a Show or Competition or Event.

COACH – A person who instructs/teaches riding or equestrian skills. The Coach shall not necessarily receive reward for such coaching.

COMPETITOR –

- (a) The rider in a riding or turnout class.
- (b) The person showing the horse, i.e. the rider or handler of the horse during competition.

CRUELTY – Includes any act or omission as a consequence of which a horse is mistreated.

DRUG – Is any chemical agent that affects living process (see PROHIBITED OR BANNED SUBSTANCE).

EMPLOYEE – A person who is hired to work for another and/or for a business. This also includes a person who works for another for keep and/or wages, specifically concerned with selling, showing, preparing, training, agisting and/or procuring of horses and/or training of riders.

EMPLOYER – A person or business who employs another. This also includes a person who employs another for keep and/or for wages, specifically concerned with the selling, showing preparing, agisting, training of horses and/or the training of riders.

EXHIBIT – The horse competing in an event.

EXHIBITOR – The person/s entering the horse for competition. The exhibitor will be the owner and/or lessee and/or agent of the said owner or lessee.

FAMILY – Shall include all identified in the Definition of Immediate Family plus uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, and in-law.

GALLOWAY – Refers to a horse over 14hh and not exceeding 15hh.

GUARDIAN – Legal Guardian

HACK – Refers to a Pony, Galloway or Saddle Horse which is shown in Hack Classes or is used as a mount in Riding Classes.

HE/HIS – Where the masculine gender appears, it includes the feminine gender.

HORSE – Refers to a Pony, Galloway, or Horse over 15hh.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY – Spouse, brother, sister, child, parents, grand-parents, grand-children. Step, persons living in a de-facto relationship, and same sex Partners (Refer also to Definition of “Family”).

KNOWINGLY – Acquainted/aware of the truth. Informed of the facts. Where this situation exists, it shall be presumed that any breach is intentional.

LEADING REIN – A class for Ponies n/e 12hh on a Lead rein, the Rider over 3years and under 8years with a Handler to maintain light contact for safe control of the combination.

LEASE – Where the possession of a horse, but not the ownership, is transferred (and recorded) to another person.

MEDICATION – Means the administration/treatment with Drug/s or other Substance/s. Routes of administration of medication by any means including but not limited to intravenous, subcutaneous, oral, topical, rectal, vaginal.

MONTH – Means a Calendar month. Calendar month means a period commencing at the beginning of a day of one of the 12 named months and ending:

- (a) immediately before the beginning of the corresponding day of the next named month; OR
- (b) if there is no such corresponding day, at the end of the next named month.

Named month means “January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November or December.”

OWNER – The owner/s is/are the person/s named as the owner/s on the horse’s Registration Certificate or ownership document.

OWNER’S AGENT – The person officially notified (to the SHCA) to represent the Owner in his/her absence.

PARTNERSHIPS – Refers to the state or condition of being a partner and includes the following.

- (a) Business Partner - Is where a contractual or verbal relationship exists between two or more persons associated as a principal and/or contributor of capital, in a business or a joint venture with a view to profit, benefit or other wise

- (b) Partner- Is where a state or condition exists where two or more persons have an arrangement, association or a joint interest in any property or possession.

This includes any venture jointly or independently relating to the owning, preparing, training, selling, agisting and or showing of horses and or the training of riders with a view to profit, benefit or otherwise. Any clause in the rules referring to a business partner shall also apply to a partner and vice versa.

PONY – Refers to a horse 14hh and under.

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES are categorised as follows:

- (a) 'Banned Substances' are substances identified as such under the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List, they have no legitimate use in the competition horse and/or have a high potential for abuse. They are not permitted for use in the competition horse at any time.
- (b) 'Controlled Medications' are substances identified as such on the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List and are recognised to have therapeutic value and/or be commonly used in equine medicine. Controlled Medication have the potential to affect performance and/or be a welfare risk to the horse.
- (c) 'Foreign substances' are those which are generally accepted to have no performance modifying effect but may be detectable. Examples: omeprazole, ranitidine, pentosane, hyaluronic acid, bromhexine, vitamins and essential trace nutrients.

Exhibitors and their support teams are strongly encouraged to work closely with their veterinarian when administering any treatment and/or substances to horses.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER – Is the person, who is the Owner, Lessee or Exhibitor for the horse in respect to these Rules. The Responsible Officer must be over 18 yrs. of age – where the owner of a horse is under 18 years of age a Parent or Guardian shall be the Responsible Officer.

SADDLE HORSE – Refers to a horse over 15hh.

SALE – A horse shall be deemed to have been sold when the ownership changes to another person and the Transfer has been lodged with the SHCA in accordance with NSH Rules.

SHOW – Also referred to as "Competition or Event". A Show may be made up of one or more classes.

SHOW HORSE COUNCIL or SHCA – Abbreviated terms for "The Show Horse Council of Australasia Inc."

SINGULAR/PLURAL – Where the singular appears it also includes the plural and vice versa.

SUSPENSION – A Penalty imposed upon a member for a Breach of Rule/s certain membership rights of the member are suspended during the period of suspension.

- (a) **A member** while under suspension cannot compete, enter, judge, officiate or exhibit a horse owned or leased by the Member at any event conducted and/or approved by SHCA or its Affiliates.
- (b) **A Member** under suspension cannot transfer ownership or a leasehold of a horse owned or leased by them during the period of suspension.
- (c) **A Horse** under suspension cannot be entered or exhibited in any event conducted and/or approved by the SHCA or its Affiliates. A transfer of ownership or lease for the horse cannot be carried out during the period of its suspension.

TREATMENT – Means any treatment (administered and/or applied) to the horse within 30 days prior to or at time of Competition.

TREATMENT SHEET – Is the Official document available from the Show Secretary or SHCA Official to report any treatment or medication administered and/or applied to the Horse in the 30-day period prior to and on the day of Competition. The Treatment Sheet shall be completed in full detail and returned prior to competition, to the Show Secretary or Ringmaster for consideration by the Ground Jury as to whether or not the horse shall be permitted to start.

TRAINER – A person who trains and/or prepares and/or procures horses for training. The trainer shall not necessarily receive reward for such training.

TUITION – Instruction of horse or rider in a small group or individually. The trainer shall not necessarily receive reward for such tutoring.

VESTED INTERESTS – A strong personal interest in the outcome of the judgement, usually resulting in private gain or advantage.

WORKING HUNTER – A Pony, Galloway, or Hack that is of Hunter type and competes in a specific Class that requires working on the flat and over jumps.