



Guardians of the Breed since 1921

Patron: The Baroness Mallalieu, QC

Showing and Competition Guidelines

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These Showing and Competition Guidelines have been compiled to ensure that everyone who enters the show ring understands the responsibilities placed upon them.

General Showing Rules

(to be added to 'Showing Rules' in back of EPS Rule Book and given in the new members handbook)

1/ All ponies exhibited in classes at shows run by or affiliated to the Exmoor Pony Society must be registered in Section 1 of the EPS Studbook.

2/ All stallions and colts aged 4 years and over exhibited in classes at shows run by or affiliated to the EPS must have been licensed by the Society.

2a/ All stallions and colts aged 2 years and over must wear a stallion disc.

3/ Age is calculated from 1st January of the year of birth.

4/ Mares with a living foal are not eligible to compete in ridden or driving classes. The foal must be at least three weeks old and must accompany its dam into the show ring.

Judges' Rules

The purpose of judging is to place the ponies in each class in order of merit subject to breed requirements, conformation, quality and soundness

1/ A Judge may not adjudicate a class in which, to the Judge's knowledge, a pony bred, sold, leased, produced, ridden or trained by the Judge and/or their immediate family or with anyone they may reside with, or who has had business connections with, or the Judge's employer.

2a/ A Judge may not adjudicate a pony whose rider has ridden a pony owned or produced by the Judge within the previous 12 months.

2b/ A Judge may not adjudicate a pony whose exhibitor has produced a pony for the Judge within the previous 12 months.

2c/ A Judge may not adjudicate a pony whose Exhibitor has entered into a financial undertaking with the Judge within the previous 12 months (stud fees are excluded). An Exhibitor is the owner, lessee, or the person who produces and/or shows the pony.

3a/ Judges must only be accompanied into the ring by persons appointed by the Show or a Probationer Judge appointed by the EPS.

3b/ Judges should not have a Probationer Judge with them during their first three years on the panel.

4/ Whilst Judges are encouraged to carry Schedules, they are forbidden to refer to the show catalogue either prior to judging or during the class.

5/ When judging a Brood mare class, Judges must take the condition of the foal into account.

6/ If, in the opinion of the Judge, any pony entered for an event adjudicated or to be adjudicated by the Judge is in an unsound condition, the Judge may, at his discretion, require the Exhibitor to withdraw the pony from the class, subject to the right of the Exhibitor to the matter to the Veterinary Surgeon, if any, officiating at the Show.

7/ If, in the Judge's opinion an Exhibitor or their pony's conduct is detrimental to the character and interests of the Society, they may eliminate them from the class and they may also report them to the EPS Committee.

8/ The Judge's decision is final. The class ends when the Judge dismisses the class. The Judge must give permission for the rider/handler to remove their pony or themselves from the ring during judging.

9/ Judges on the EPS Panels will exercise discretion in accepting invitations to judge the same type of class in the same area in any one year.

10/ In the event of a Judge being unable to fulfil his/her judge commitment they must immediately inform the Show Secretary and make every effort to find a replacement Judge.

11/ In Open Ridden classes ponies must walk, trot and canter with a change of rein together as a class. A gallop may be asked for if ground conditions allow.

12/ A Judge should not accept any hospitality from an exhibitor during the show day.

Judges' Code of Conduct

1/ Judges should reply in writing declining or confirming attendance within two weeks of receiving invitations to judge and should honour the commitment.

2/ Judges are advised to make prior arrangements with the Show Secretary regarding their expenses and accommodation. Expense forms should be submitted to the Secretary on show day.

3/ Judges should always be punctual and smartly dressed. They should present themselves to the show secretary at least half an hour before their first class.

4/ Judges should avoid meeting exhibitors or their helpers on the day of the show prior to entering the show ring for judging. They should not stay with or accept hospitality from any potential exhibitor at a show where they are judging.

5/ Judges should not call any exhibitor by their name and must remain detached and impartial. No social conversation should take place.

6/ Before judging commences, judges should discuss with the ring steward the procedure to be adopted in the ring, and thank the steward after the classes.

7/ Instructions to exhibitors should generally be conveyed through the ring steward.

8/ Judges should present rosettes unless a sponsor wishes to do so. A Judge may withhold rosettes if entries are of insufficient merit.

- 9/ Judges should be open to questions from exhibitors who are asking the reasons for the placing of their pony. Any remarks should be discreet.
- 10/ Judges must be unbiased and fair, must treat each exhibitor the same and remember it is only the pony that is being judged.
- 11/ Judges should report to the show secretary any Health and Safety incidents that occur during judging and fill out the relevant forms.
- 12/ Judges must report any judging or ring irregularities to the show secretary eg delays, amalgamation of classes, course building faults, uneven surfaces etc.
- 13/ Judges must report any competitor or pony irregularities to the show secretary, eg non eligibility for classes, rudeness, conflict of interest etc.
- 14/ Judges should be aware of any new rules or rule changes.
- 15/ Judges should not exhibit in qualifying classes when they are judging the final.
- 16/ Judges should take into account the condition of overweight or underweight ponies and penalise accordingly.
- 17/ Judges should neither smoke nor use mobile phones whilst in the ring.
- 18/ Freeze branding should not be considered detrimental to a pony in the show ring.

Exhibitors' Rules

- 1/ Exhibitors, owners and producers must be familiar with the rules of the show and the EPS.
- 2/ Judges should not be approached on the day of the show, until after the class has ended.
- 3/ Exhibitors should not offer hospitality to judges on the day of the show.
- 4/ The welfare of the pony is paramount and no lame, sick or overly fat pony should be brought into the ring.
- 5/ The Judge's decision is final. Any objection should be lodged officially in accordance with the show's rules.
- 6/ A Judge may require a pony that in their opinion constitutes a danger to leave the ring.
- 7/ The rider/handler may not remove their pony or themselves from the ring during judging without the Judge's permission. The class ends when the Judge dismisses the class.
- 8/ No whip may be carried in any class which exceeds 30" in length and no change of whip is permitted without the judge authorising its use.
- 9/ An exhibitor may not knowingly exhibit a pony bred, sold, leased, broken, ridden or trained by the Judge, and/or their immediate family, employer or anyone with whom they reside.
- 10a/ A rider/handler may not compete in a class judged by someone for whom they have exhibited in the show ring in the last 12 months.
- 10b/ An exhibitor may not show under a judge for whom they have produced a pony in the last 12 months.

10c/ An exhibitor may not show under a judge with whom they have entered in to a financial/commercial undertaking in the last 12 months. (Stud fees are excepted).

11/ Handlers of stallions and colts in in-hand classes must have attained their 14th birthday before 1st January of the current year.

12/ Handlers of ponies in in-hand classes aged 14 years and under must wear correctly secured British Standard skull caps/ riding hats.

13/ Riders of stallions in Mountain and Moorland Ridden and Working Hunter Pony classes must have attained their 11th birthday before 1st January of the current year.

14/ Spurs are not allowed in any Ridden class.

15/ Correctly secured current British Standard skull caps/riding hats must be worn at all times when mounted. A competitor whose hat comes off or unfastened whilst competing must, on penalty of elimination, replace or refasten it before continuing. He/she may dismount without penalty to recover the hat or have it passed up from the ground, or may stop without penalty to fasten the chin strap.

16/ A fall of pony or rider in any class will result in disqualification. The rider must not remount in the ring.

17/ No change of rider/handler will be allowed during a class without the Judge's permission except where a rider/handler is incapacitated.

18/ Where an exhibitor qualifies two ponies for a championship, they must elect a substitute rider.

19/ Mares with a living foal born during the current season are not eligible to compete in ridden classes.

20/ All foals must be at least three weeks old on the day of the show and must accompany their dam into the ring, to be led alongside her as much as possible.

21a/ All stallions and colts aged 4 years or more exhibited in registered classes must hold a current Stallion licence.

21b/ Two/three year old colts can be shown provided they have not failed a stallion inspection or whilst pending re-inspection.

21c/ All stallions and colts aged 2 years or more must be adequately bitted.

Exhibitors' Code of Conduct

1/ Exhibitors should conduct themselves at all times in an orderly, polite manner. Bad language is not tolerated under any circumstances or to any person.

2/ Exhibitors should ensure they are in the ring at the right time and should not expect a class to be held up for them.

3/ Exhibitors should comply with stewards' or judges' requests at all times in the ring.

4/ Exhibitors or riders should not remove themselves or their ponies from the ring during judging without the Judge's permission. The class ends when the Judge dismisses the class.

5/ Exhibitors should be dressed neatly and circumspectly.

6/ Exhibitors should ensure they are wearing the correct number for the pony they are showing.

7/ The use of any artificial aid to excite the pony is not acceptable.

Dope Testing

The EPS has adopted the NPS rules for drug testing. Please refer to the current NPS Rule Book for full details.