

Model Horse Regulations 2026

1. Introduction

These Regulations may be adopted in their entirety or adapted to meet local needs and included at the beginning of the Horse Section schedule. It is strongly recommended, however, that the first three paragraphs be adopted and included unaltered. It is also recommended that a copy of this document plus the rules for discipline on showgrounds immediately before, during and immediately after shows (including in horse sections) be printed out and available for the duration of the Show for reference.

All horse competitions at this show are governed by these regulations and by the [AgShows NSW Rules for Discipline](#), [The Code of Conduct](#) and [General Regulations](#) which can be viewed at www.agshowsnsw.org.au

Should it become necessary for the AgShows NSW Disciplinary Committee to open an inquiry into any aspect of competition in this Horse Section, this Society will support any penalty imposed by that Committee as a result of the inquiry and will support penalties resulting from enquiries arising from Horse Sections at other NSW shows.

COMPETITION RULES

All Horse Competitions will be conducted under approved Peak Body and Breed Society Registration Rules and Regulations.

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2. Definitions

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following definitions apply:

Code of Conduct: All competitors, officials and associates must comply with the AgShows NSW Code of Conduct, which applies before, during and immediately after the Show.

Competitor: Any rider, handler or exhibitor participating in a horse class or equestrian event at the Show.

Exhibit: A horse or pony entered into any class within the Horse Section.

General Regulations: The General Regulations apply to all sections of the Show and set overarching definitions, conduct and compliance requirements, while the Horse Regulations are Special Regulations that apply specifically to the Horse Section and prevail where any inconsistency exists.

Horse Health Declaration: A mandatory declaration identifying the health status and PIC origin of each horse brought onto the Showground.

Horse Section: The part of an Agricultural Show dedicated to horse competitions, including led, ridden, breed, performance, novelty and other equestrian events conducted under recognised industry and breed rules.

Judge: An approved and suitably qualified person appointed to assess exhibits in accordance with recognised breed, performance or industry standards. The Judge's decision is final.

Model Horse Regulations: The standardised rules issued by AgShows NSW that govern the conduct, safety, welfare, eligibility and judging requirements for all horse competitions held at Agricultural Shows.

Novice: An exhibit that has not won a First Place in any similar class at any Agricultural Show.

Responsible Person: The person responsible for the Exhibit whilst at the competition.

Ringmaster / Chief Steward: The appointed official responsible for managing the competition ring, enforcing rules, ensuring safety, coordinating judges and resolving matters arising during classes.

Stallion / Colt: An entire male horse or pony, subject to specific handling, age and eligibility requirements.

Waiver / Indemnity: A form signed by each adult competitor (or guardian for persons under 18) acknowledging participation at their own risk and releasing the Show Society from liability.

3. Application of Regulations

- 3.1 These Regulations apply to all horse competitions conducted at this Show.
- 3.2 Where Breed Society, Peak Body or Discipline-specific rules apply, those rules operate in conjunction with these Regulations.
- 3.3 In the event of inconsistency, safety, welfare and AgShows NSW disciplinary requirements prevail.

4. Entries, Waivers and Declarations

- 4.1 All competitors must complete the required Waiver and Indemnity prior to competition.
- 4.2 A Horse Health Declaration must be completed for each horse brought onto the Showground, including PIC details.
- 4.3 Electronic declarations may be accepted where online entry systems are in place.

5. Competition Inclusivity and Welfare

- 5.1 Rider with a Disability classes are open to riders and handlers with a medically diagnosed, ongoing disability that has a functional impact on participation.
- 5.2 Classes must be conducted in accordance with applicable inclusion and anti-discrimination principles.
- 5.3 Minimum recommended age limits apply:
- Led / Leading Rein: 3 years
 - Independent riding: 5 years

6. Judge and Official Authority

- 6.1 The Judge has full authority to assess exhibits and may withhold prizes where exhibits are deemed unworthy.
- 6.2 The Ringmaster or Chief Steward may order any exhibit or competitor to leave the ring where safety is compromised.
- 6.3 Judge and Official decisions are final and not subject to protest where they relate solely to judging merit.

7. Eligibility and Class Conditions

7.1 District and Local Classes

Horses and/or riders entered in District or Local classes must have been resident for a minimum of three (3) months prior to the Show within a fifty (50) kilometre radius of the Showground, unless otherwise stated in the Schedule.

7.2 Novice Eligibility

A Novice exhibit is one that has not won a First Place in any similar class at any Agricultural Show.

7.3 Show Hunter and Show Hack Status

At the beginning of each calendar year, exhibitors must nominate whether an exhibit will compete as a Show Hunter or Show Hack when entering AgShows NSW Affiliated Agricultural Shows or approved supplementary events.

7.4 Stallions and Colts

Led Stallions and Colts must wear a bit at all times unless Breed Society rules specify otherwise. They must be handled by a person aged seventeen (17) years or over and be under effective control at all times. Stallions and Colts must be securely fastened when tied to vehicles or floats and are not eligible for ridden classes unless expressly stated in the Schedule.

7.5 Ponies with Adult Riders

Ponies may be ridden by adults unless otherwise stated in the Schedule.

7.6 Lateness to the Ring

Competitors must be ready when called. Once judging has commenced, no exhibit may enter or leave the judging ring without the permission of the Judge and/or Ringmaster or Chief Steward.

7.7 Leaving the Ring

If a led horse escapes its handler, or a ridden or driven horse becomes uncontrollable, unseats its rider or leaves the ring, it will usually be disqualified from the class.

7.8 Horse Measuring

No official measuring will take place at the Show. Where height eligibility is questioned, proof of height may be requested. In the absence of proof, the decision of the Ringmaster or Chief Steward is final.

7.9 Breed Registration

Registration documents for exhibits entered in Breed classes must be produced upon request. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor or owner to ensure all relevant Breed Society memberships are current at the time of competition.

8. Safety, Attire and Equipment

8.1 Attire

Competitors must be appropriately attired for the competition entered. The level of dress and presentation must reflect the standard expected for the class.

8.2 Helmets

Every rider is encouraged to wear a safety helmet compliant with the current Australian Standard. Riders under eighteen (18) years of age must wear such a helmet. Some discipline or EA-affiliated events may require helmets to be tagged prior to competition.

8.3 Footwear

All competitors must wear appropriate footwear when leading or riding a horse. When riding, footwear must allow for safe removal of the foot from the stirrup.

8.4 Horse Fitness and Safety

No horse may compete if, in the opinion of the Ringmaster or Chief Steward, it is unfit, unsafe, diseased or in poor condition. Any exhibit considered dangerous may be excluded from competition.

8.5 Presentation and Performance Eligibility

Horse Shows promoted as informal or non-traditional presentation events (for example, 'T-shirt' or 'no plaiting' shows) are not eligible for Sydney Royal performance qualification unless otherwise approved.

9. Conduct, Discipline and Complaints

9.1 Proper Conduct

All competitors, officials and associates must conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful manner as per the [General Code of Conduct](#). Any person behaving offensively or improperly may be expelled from the Showground.

9.2 Cruelty

Any person considered by the Ringmaster or Chief Steward to be abusive or cruel to a horse will be expelled from the Showground. No horse will be permitted to compete if deemed to be in poor health or condition.

9.3 Approaching Judges

No exhibitor or associate may initiate conversation with a Judge on judging day before, during or after judging, except through the Ringmaster or Chief Steward.

9.4 Prohibited Relationships

No competitor may present an exhibit before a Judge with whom they have a family relationship, a current or recent personal relationship, or horse-related business dealings within the previous twelve (12) months.

9.5 Coaching

Any person detected coaching a competitor while that competitor is being judged may be removed from the Showground.

9.6 Protests and Complaints

A protest or complaint may be lodged verbally with the Ringmaster or Chief Steward no later than ten (10) minutes after the judging of the relevant class. Written protests or appeals must be lodged with the Secretary by 10.00 pm on the day of judging and be accompanied by a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50), refundable unless the protest is deemed frivolous or vexatious.

9.7 Protests Committee

Where required, a Protests Committee comprising the President or Vice President and two members of the General Committee shall determine the matter. Decisions relating solely to judging merit are not subject to protest.

9.8 Disciplinary Framework

All matters of conduct, complaints and disputes are subject to the AgShows NSW Rules for Discipline.

10. Veterinary, Drug Testing and Welfare

10.1 Drug Testing

Drug testing may be conducted at the Show. Any breach of AgShows NSW disciplinary and dispute regulations will be investigated by the AgShows NSW Disciplinary Committee.

10.2 Veterinary Costs

Where veterinary inspection or treatment is required during the Show, all costs incurred are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

10.3 Age of Horses

The age of horses is calculated from 1 August in the year of foaling.

11. Interpretation and Adoption

11.1 These Model Horse Regulations are issued as guidance to Show Societies.

11.2 The introductory clauses in Section 1 must be adopted unaltered.

11.3 Societies may adapt other sections to suit local scheduling requirements provided safety, welfare and disciplinary principles are maintained.