



## Ringmaster / Chief Horse Steward Guidelines (2025)

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### 1. Role and Definition

The Ring Master / Horse Steward is the principal official responsible for the smooth, safe, and fair running of the arena/rings during equestrian competition. They are supported by the Assistant Ring Master / Horse Steward (if appointed), and arena stewards.

- The Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward is the primary point of contact for competitors regarding ring procedures, disputes, and safety issues.
- The Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward must act in line with Show Society Regulations, Code of Conduct, AgShows NSW Model Horse Regulations and the AgShows NSW Rules for Discipline, as well as relevant breed society and peak body regulations.

### 2. Authority and Final Decision

- The Committee, Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward hold the final authority in all matters arising in the ring, including competitor conduct, disputes, protests, safety concerns, or interpretation of rules.
- Judges' decisions are final on placings, but procedural and safety matters rest with the Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward.
- Protests and complaints must be lodged through the Ringmaster / Chief Horse Steward in line with show regulations.

### 3. Key Responsibilities

The Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward is expected to:

#### 1. Arena Control

- Maintain order, safety, and efficiency within the ring at all times.
- Ensure competitors enter and leave the ring promptly; late entries require approval.
- Remove unsafe or unruly horses/exhibitors if necessary.

#### 2. Knowledge & Compliance

- Be familiar with AgShows NSW Horse Regulations (2025), ASC of NSW, EA/SHC guidelines, and breed society rules.
- Apply these rules impartially and without favouritism.
- The Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward is ineligible to compete at their own Horse Show
- If the Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward has appointed the Judges, the Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward's family should refrain from competition at event.



### **3. Protests & Disputes**

- Receive verbal protests within 10 minutes of a class finishing.
- Refer matters to the Protests Committee where required.

### **4. Safety & Risk Management**

- Ensure Waivers signed and Wristbands issued.
- Enforce helmet and footwear requirements.
- Act against cruelty, misconduct, or unsafe practices.
- Apply the Society's biosecurity and risk management plans

### **5. Coordination of Judges & Stewards**

- Brief judges and stewards prior to commencement.
- Ensure classes are run to time where possible.
- Maintain independence from competitors and judges.

### **6. Presentation & Conduct**

- Be identifiable, approachable, and professional.
- Ensure rings are set up with necessary equipment, ribbons, and stewarding materials.
- Remain impartial and uphold the reputation of the Show.

### **4. Specific Guidelines**

- Measuring & Height Disputes: Where proof of height is absent, the Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward may make the final determination.
- Cruelty or Poor Health: Horses deemed unfit, in poor condition, or subject to cruelty will be disqualified and removed.
- Approaching Judges: Exhibitors must not approach judges directly; all communication is via the Ring Master / Chief Horse Steward.
- Prohibited Coaching: Any person detected coaching during judging may be removed from the grounds.
- Proper Conduct: Offensive behaviour may result in removal, subject to disciplinary procedures.

### **5. Committee and Show Society Support**

- The Show Committee must support the Ringmaster / Chief Horse Steward in enforcing regulations and decisions.
- Copies of the Horse Regulations and Rules for Discipline must be available at the show for quick reference.
- The Committee, Ringmaster, and Chief Horse Steward work together to ensure fairness, safety, and compliance.