



# **MODEL REGULATIONS FOR HORSE SECTION**

(Guidance to AgShows NSW Member Organisations) – updated January 2026

*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.*

## **HORSE SECTION – Regulations**

**\*All horse competitions at this show are governed by these regulations and by the AgShows NSW Rules for Discipline in Horse Sections at Shows which can be viewed at [www.agshowsnsw.org.au](http://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.

**INDEMNITY AND WAIVER FORMS:** The Horse Committee will take all care in managing the Section, but competitors taking part in this Horse Section do so at their own risk. Each adult competitor must, before competing, complete and sign a form indemnifying the Insert Name of Show Society and waiving any claims against the Society for any injury sustained in competition or for loss or damage to the competitor's property or damage caused by the competitor or his/her animal(s) at the Show. A similar form must also be completed and signed by a parent or guardian for each competitor who is under 18 years of age. **ALSO, all competitors must complete a Horse Health Declaration, each horse with which the competitor has bought onto the Showgrounds must be listed together with the Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property from which the horse came to the Show. If the Show Society has introduced online entries, it is possible to electronically sign a Waiver and Horse Health Declaration (by ticking a box) at point of entry.**

**Competition Inclusivity:** Rider with a Disability classes are open to riders and handlers with a medically diagnosed, ongoing disability that has a functional impact on participation. Classes are conducted in accordance with relevant anti-discrimination and inclusion legislation.

**Under Saddle Age Limit:** AgShows NSW recommends a lower age limit of 3 years of age (as at the date of the competition) for leading rein and 5 years of age for independent riding.

**Refusal of Entry/Alteration of Schedule/Prizes:** The committee reserves the right to refuse an entry without assigning any reason for doing so and to alter the schedule to meet emerging circumstances. The Society is not responsible for the non-delivery of sponsor's trophies/prizes. Should there be any reason to suspect that any exhibit is either diseased or dangerous, the Society reserves the right to isolate, refuse entry to and/or remove the exhibit from the ground at the expense of the exhibitor.



**Judge's Decision/Discretion:** The judge is empowered to withhold any or all prizes in any class where the exhibits are, in his/her opinion, unworthy of the prize, and always the judge's decision will be final. 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.

**District/Local Classes:** Horses and/or riders must have been resident for at least three months prior to the show within a 50-kilometre radius of the Showground.

**Novice Class Eligibility:** A Novice has not won a First Place at any Show in a similar class.

**Ridden Show Hunters and Ridden Show Hacks:** At the beginning of each calendar year an exhibitor MUST choose the category for their exhibit, EITHER Show Hunter or Show Hack, when competing at an AgShows NSW Affiliated Agricultural Show or supplementary event.

**Stallions:** Led Stallions and Colts must be wearing a bit at all times (unless Breed Society rules specify otherwise). Stallions and Colts must be under the control of a person 17 years of age or older (proof of age of handler may be requested). They must always be supervised and securely fastened when tied to the outside of a truck or float. They are not eligible to compete in ridden classes unless their eligibility is specifically stated in the schedule.

**Ponies with Adult Riders:** Ponies may be ridden by adults unless otherwise stated in the schedule.

**Lateness to the Ring:** Competitors must be ready when called. 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 Ringmaster or Chief Steward.

**Leaving the Ring:** If a led horse should drag or escape its handler or a ridden or driven horse takes control of or unseat its rider and leave the ring, it is usually disqualified from the class.

**Horse Measuring:** No official measuring will take place at the show, but, if a question about height arises, proof of height may be required. In the absence of proof, a decision will be at the absolute discretion of the Ring Master or Chief Steward.

**Breed Registration:** Registration documents for horses in breed classes must be produced when required by a Steward. It is the competitor/owner's responsibility to ensure relevant memberships for their exhibits Breed society or registry is financial at time of competition.

**Attire:** Competitors must be appropriately attired for the competition in which they are competing.

**Helmets:** Every rider is encouraged to wear a safety helmet compliant with the current Australian Standard. Riders under 18 years must wear such a helmet. Some EA affiliated events require Rider's helmets to be tagged prior to competition.

**Footwear:** All competitors must wear appropriate footwear when leading or riding a horse. When riding, the footwear must enable removal of the foot from the stirrup.



**Cruelty:** Persons who are considered by the Ringmaster or Chief Steward to be abusive or cruel to a horse will be expelled from the ground. No horse will be permitted to compete if, in the opinion of the Ringmaster or Chief Steward, it is in poor health or condition.

**Drugs:** Drug testing may be carried out at this show. Any competitor found to have breached the AgShows NSW disputes & disciplinary regulation will be investigated by the AgShows NSW disciplinary committee.

**Approaching Judges:** No exhibitor or associate will initiate conversation with a judge on judging day, before, during or after judging except through the Ringmaster or Chief Steward.

**Prohibited Relationship:** No competitor will present for judging before a judge with whom he/she has a family relationship, has, or has recently had a personal relationship or has had horse related business dealings during the past twelve months.

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

**Proper Conduct:** Any person who behaves offensively on the Showground may be expelled from the ground. The matter may be investigated by this Show Society and/or the AgShows NSW Disciplinary Committee and penalties may be imposed.

**Protests:** A protest or complaint against any exhibit or exhibitor may be lodged verbally with the Ringmaster or Chief Steward no later than ten minutes after the judging of the exhibit or exhibitor. The Ringmaster or Chief Steward must be provided with the exact nature of the complaint and act, if necessary, to maintain competitive fairness. The Ringmaster or Chief Steward may choose to refer the matter to the Protests Committee, which shall comprise the President of the Society, or a Vice President and two other members of the General Committee. A protest or complaint or an appeal against the decision of the Ringmaster or Chief Steward may be lodged in writing with the Secretary no later than 10 pm on the day of judging. Such protest, complaint or appeal shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$50 which shall be forfeited if the protest, complaint, or appeal proves to be frivolous or vexatious. A matter lodged this way shall be dealt with by the Protests Committee within 24 hours of lodgement and the decision of the Protest Committee shall be final. NB: No protest or complaint will be considered if it refers simply to a judge's decision.

**Veterinary Costs:** In the case of an exhibit requiring veterinary inspection/treatment whilst at this event exhibitors agree that all costs incurred are their responsibility.

**Age of Horses:** The age of all horses shall be calculated from 1<sup>st</sup> August in the year in which it was foaled.

**Attire and Presentation:** The appropriate level of attire and presentation is required for the competition entered. For example, Horse Shows promoted as a "T shirt, no plating shows, or similar" will not be eligible for performance at Sydney Royal.

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