

# HOYS 2026

7<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER

[HOYS.CO.UK](http://HOYS.CO.UK)



# RULE BOOK 2026

## Contents

<b>General Rules</b>	<b>4</b>
Horses/Ponies	4
Class Conduct	5
Exhibitors	6
Horse of the Year Show Entries/Administration	9
Measurement	10
Judging of Classes	11
Judges	12
Dope Testing	13
Social Media & Internet Policy	15
Disclosure Under Law or Regulation	17
Complaints and Appeals Procedure	17
<b>Class Specific Rules</b>	<b>18</b>
A Mountain and Moorland Classes	18
B Plaited Pony Classes	24
C Intermediate Classes	30
D Hacks, Cobs, Riding Horses and Hunters	32
E Arabs, Coloureds, Miniatures and Veterans	39
F Heavy Horses and Driven Classes	44
G Supreme In Hand	47



Herein are the general Rules and Regulations of Horse of the Year Show (7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026). For specific rules appertaining to each class, please refer to that class heading in this book. All exhibitors/riders/owners/producers/judges participating at Horse of the Year Show or its qualifiers shall be considered as having read and understood the following rules and regulations.

All Horse of the Year Show qualifiers are to be run under these rules, whether or not a Horse of the Year Show qualifying class is also a qualifier for a different society/show championship.

All exhibitors/riders/owners/producers/judges at Horse of the Year Show and qualifying rounds are bound by the Rules as detailed in this Rule Book. Horse of the Year Show reserves the right to amend these rules when required and all alterations will be uploaded via the website, [www.hoys.co.uk](http://www.hoys.co.uk). Exhibitors/riders/owners/producers shall be deemed to have consented to all the provisions thereof by submission of an entry to Horse of the Year Show or its qualifying rounds.

Full details of the Grandstand Media Limited privacy policies can be found at <https://hoys.co.uk/privacy-policy/>. Full details of the Grandstand Entries privacy policy can be found at [www.grandstandentries.com](http://www.grandstandentries.com).

Grandstand Media Limited reserve the right to share qualifier and HOYS entry information with the relevant showing society, and vice versa, for the purpose of HOYS matters to include, but not limited to, qualification or disciplinary.

Grandstand Media Limited takes safeguarding seriously and recognises that it has a duty of care towards children, young people and adults at risk within the horse industry. For full details of our safeguarding policy please visit [www.hoys.co.uk](http://www.hoys.co.uk).

**A copy of the Horse of the Year Show Equine Welfare Policy is available at [www.grandstandentries.co.uk](http://www.grandstandentries.co.uk), this is provided as best practice guidance for HOYS qualifying events and the final at Horse of the Year Show. This guidance may be updated at any time; all changes will be made in bold.**

Exhibitors/riders/owners/producers must note that at Horse of the Year Show they will be subject to further practical rules and regulations relating to attending the event.

In this Rule Book (Definitions)

- i) Exhibitors and/or Competitors means and includes where appropriate; riders, owners, handlers, producers and grooms.
- ii) Horse of the Year Show means and includes where appropriate Grandstand Media Limited (GML).
- iii) Immediate Family includes but is not limited to grandparents, parents/parents partners, husband/wife and partners, brothers and sisters, sons/daughters, step grandparents, step parents, step brothers/sisters, legal guardians father/mother/sister and brother in-laws, niece and nephew.
- iv) For reference to group teach-ins, a group is considered to be three or more in number.



## CONTACT DETAILS

ADDRESS: GRANDSTAND MEDIA LIMITED, STONELEIGH PARK, KENILWORTH,  
WARWICKSHIRE, CV8 2LZ  
TELEPHONE: 02476 858205  
EMAIL: showsecretary@hoys.co.uk

## GENERAL RULES

### 1) HORSES/PONIES

- a) All ridden animals must be four years old and over. The age of an animal shall be calculated from the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of its birth.
- b) An animal must be shown in the name under which it was originally registered with the Arab Horse Society, British Miniature Horse Society, British Show Horse Association, British Show Pony Society, Coloured Horse and Pony Society, National Pony Society, Native Breed Stud Books, Sport Horse Breeding (GB), **UK American Miniature Horse Society, Veteran Horse Society**, British Showjumping or any other recognised Official Identity Document issuing society.
- c) Mountain and Moorland ponies must be registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society Stud Books to compete in the Mountain and Moorland classes.
- d) All ponies exhibited in Mountain and Moorland classes are to be trimmed only within their Breed Society specification. False hair pieces are not permitted.
- e) A horse may not be registered in more than one type at the same time (e.g. as both a Hack and a Riding Horse) or in more than one category at the same time (e.g. as both a Small Hack and a Large hack). The registration may be changed once in a season if the horse has not qualified for Horse of the Year Show, in the current season.
- f) The identification of the animal must be in accordance with their Official Identity Document, at all times.
- g) Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant studbook or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal. Spot checks may be carried out at qualifying shows and by breed societies.
- h) In the case of a lease agreement, the legal owner and lessee must be aware of and remain responsible for all past and present connections.
- i) Mares with a living foal born during the current season may not be shown in any ridden classes.



## 2) CLASS CONDUCT

- a) In the Final at HOYS, riders in Lead Rein and First Ridden classes will not be asked to dismount; the ponies will not be stripped; however, they will still be assessed for conformation. At qualifying shows, First Ridden ponies will be stripped unless on health and safety grounds it is unsafe to do so. This will be agreed at the discretion of the organiser and judge(s).
- b) No animal or rider may leave the ring without permission of the judge and ring steward. If an animal leaves the ring it may not re-enter.
- c) No rider may ride more than one animal in a class except for the jumping phase of the Working Hunter class (please see specific class guidelines).
- d) All exhibits are to enter the arena on the same rein.
- e) Once a class has commenced, there shall be no change of rider, except in a Championship when a rider finds they have more than one exhibit eligible to compete. The substitute rider must be eligible for the class and the ring steward informed of the change of rider.
- f) A fall of animal or rider whilst mounted in any class will result in disqualification and they MUST leave the ring dismounted. If an animal gets loose from its handler whilst in the ring it may also result in disqualification at the judge and/or GML's discretion.
- g) Animals displaying continued disobedience may, at the discretion of the judges, be disqualified.
- h) In all classes, all competitors must complete all phases, unless they have a dispensation card from their relevant society. Riders must be mounted for the presentation of rosettes, **with the sole exception of riders who have competed more than one animal in the Plaited Working Hunter Pony qualifying classes.**
- i) At Horse of the Year Show and qualifying shows, all Hunters, including Small Show Hunters and Ladies Side Saddle (Hunters Only), are barred from entry in the Hack and Riding Horse classes at the same Show on the same day and vice versa.
- j) Mobile telephones, earpieces, and communication devices must not be used in the ring.
- k) **Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices is not permitted in the ring.**
- l) Hors Concours (HC) entries are not permitted in any Horse of the Year Show Qualifiers.
- m) In all pony and junior classes, exhibits must not be galloped together. During the go round, ponies may gallop separately along one side or in their individual shows at the discretion of the judge/s.



- n) In the Championship of the Mountain and Moorland Working Hunter Ponies, the Junior 122cm section must be galloped separately. In the Championship of the Coloured Horse and Pony the Junior section must be galloped separately.

### 3) EXHIBITORS

#### a) Membership Requirements

- i) Exhibitors must comply by the membership/registration requirements as set out in the class specific rules before the date of the show at which they attend the qualifier.
- ii) Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring that their membership makes them eligible to compete in HOYS qualifiers (e.g NPS Scotland Membership does not cover members to compete in HOYS qualifiers as detailed in the membership regulations.).

#### b) Exhibitor Conduct

- i) On Health and Safety grounds, all competitors must be in good general health and physically fit in order to take part. It is advised that any Competitors found to be under the influence of excess alcohol or drugs will be immediately disqualified. Grandstand Media Ltd reserves the right to randomly drug and alcohol test anyone thought to be in breach of this rule.
- ii) Exhibitors and competitors must not exhibit a horse under a judge in circumstances that could constitute a breach of these rules. It is solely the responsibility of the exhibitor/competitor to make themselves aware of these rules and their eligibility to compete. Exhibitors/competitors are required to withdraw from a class if their participation in it is in conflict with any rules and regulations. For the purposes of this rule a judge has an interest in an exhibit if he/she has:
  - Any horse/pony under the ownership or production of any person for whom he/she, his/her partner or business partner has provided or obtained livery or had any other connection (business or otherwise) since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year. Stud fees and associated costs are exempt as per society guidelines.
  - Any horse/pony that is or has been owned, bred, produced, trained or exhibited by him/her, immediate family, business partner or partner (NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt).
  - Any rider who has shown a horse/pony owned, produced or trained by him/her since the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year. (NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt).
  - Any horse/pony owned or produced by a person from whom the judge has purchased horses/ponies or to whom he/she sold horses/ponies since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year in which he/she is judging.
- iii) Any animal which qualifies for the final but has a connection with the HOYS judge will not be eligible to compete in the final. In this instance and at the discretion of GML, qualification will pass down the line in accordance with the class specific rules.
- iv) No Exhibitor, Competitor or others within their party shall conduct himself in a manner or be guilty of behaviour which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of Horse of the Year Show and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) no behaviour of an offensive, abusive or unpleasant manner to any person at any show will be tolerated.



- v) No person shall ill-treat animals at any time whether misuse/excessive use of a whip, bit, spurs or any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever.
  - vi) Failure to observe any of the rules may result in disqualification of the animal concerned and the instigation of disciplinary proceedings by Horse of the Year Show, against the person breaking the rules in accordance with the disciplinary procedure of Horse of the Year Show. In the event of disqualification any cup, rosette, prizes in kind or prize money will be forfeited.
  - vii) The decision of Horse of the Year Show (including their employees, representatives and show officials), the Veterinary Surgeons and any Judges upon any of the matters required by the foregoing Rules to be decided or directed by any such persons or bodies including any question of height or soundness or want of merit or exclusion from final judging or granting of any permission or otherwise shall be final and binding in all respects and no objection shall be made on account thereof nor shall any appeal lie there from on any ground whatever.
  - viii) Any act of discourtesy or disobedience to any Judge, Steward, or to any Show Official on the part of the competitor, groom, rider, driver or agent of an animal/s, will, at the discretion of such Official disqualify that animal/s from being judged, in which case entry fees, prizes and charges will be forfeited. Competitors are reminded of their responsibility for the actions of others within their party.
  - ix) Any exhibitor/competitor currently involved in a dispute of whatsoever nature with HOYS and/or Grandstand Media Limited, that person/s shall not be permitted to compete in HOYS qualifiers or at HOYS until the said dispute has been resolved.
  - x) Any exhibitor/competitor currently involved in a dispute of whatsoever nature with a membership society may, at the discretion of GML, not be permitted to compete in HOYS qualifiers or at HOYS until the said dispute has been resolved.
  - xi) Horse of the Year Show reserves the right to refuse an entry into any HOYS qualifier or HOYS from any person(s) including, but not limited to, those who have been banned/disciplined by any showing society, **and other equestrian membership bodies including but not limited to British Showjumping and/or the FEI.**
- c) **Age**
- i) Riders and handlers of stallions must have obtained their 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday (small breeds) or 14<sup>th</sup> birthday (large breeds) before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year, with the exception of the Ridden Heavy Horses where riders of stallions must have obtained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
  - ii) Riders in all pony classes must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of competition, unless otherwise stated in class specific wording.
  - iii) **Riders must be 15 years of age or older in the Working Hunter, Show Hunter, Small Show Hunter, Ladies Side Saddle, Hack, Cob, Maxi Cob, and Riding Horse Classes.**
  - iv) **Handlers of Lead Rein animals must have obtained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.**



d) **Riding Hats**

- i) Correctly secured British Standard Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet current approved BSI or European Safety Standards **MUST** be worn by riders 18 years and under, riders competing in **Veteran**, Intermediate, Mountain and Moorland classes and riders in the jumping phase of the Working Hunter Horse/Pony.
- ii) **Correctly secured British Standard Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet current approved BSI or European Safety Standards MUST be worn by all handlers 14 years and under.**
- iii) Competitors are reminded that hats should have a plain cover and should be as per the guidelines set out in the specific class and/or society ruling; black, navy, blue, brown, grey or green as appropriate.
- iv) A rider whose hat **falls** off will be disqualified.
- v) A rider, whose strap comes undone whilst competing must on penalty of disqualification, replace it or fasten it before continuing. The rider may stop without penalty to refasten the strap.

e) **Dress**

- i) All riders when competing must be suitably attired for the Class or Championship as per the guidelines set out in the specific class and/or society rulings. Please note gaiters may be worn however chaps are not permitted in any Class or Championship.
- ii) Body protectors are recommended whilst competing in all Working Hunter, M&M Working Hunter Pony and Working Hunter Pony classes, including in the practice ring.
- iii) It is prohibited for Competitors and Grooms to have advertising or team branding on any item of clothing or hat when competing in the ring, manufacturers names/labels common to the product are excluded.

f) **Jewellery**

- i) No earrings, piercings, or visible jewellery should be worn.

g) **Tack/Equipment**

- i) Under no circumstances may tack be changed during the judging of a class.
- ii) If competing in a Championship or Supreme Championship the same tack used in the class must be worn. Whips are not considered tack.
- iii) **Horses and ponies may be ridden side saddle in any class. Where a class requires the exhibit to be ridden by a ride judge, the exhibitor must provide a suitable astride saddle for the judge's use. The animal may only be ridden once by the judge, and this must be astride in accordance with the class.**
- iv) Show canes are not to exceed 75cm (30") in pony classes. Hunting crops are permissible.
- v) Spurs/dress spurs are not permitted in any pony, **Veteran** or Intermediate classes.
- vi) Competitors must only use tack or spurs permissible in the ring whilst on the showground and mounted.
- vii) Bitless bridles and running gags are not permitted unless otherwise stated in the class specific rules.
- viii) **All saddlery or equipment is to be correctly fitted and used as intended in its manufactured state without adaptations. Any saddlery or equipment used must be available for general purchase. No item of saddlery or equipment is to be misused.**



- ix) Bandages or protective pads are not permissible on any animal's legs or feet in any class.
- x) Any misuse of tack or use of artificial aids within a HOYS class or section Championship will result in disqualification from all HOYS classes on the day in question.

*(Lead Rein/First Ridden/Junior)*

- i) In Lead Rein classes, handles on saddles are permitted.
- ii) In Lead Rein, First Ridden or Junior classes, reins must be of a normal length and not knotted together or stitched together into a short loop. In Lead Rein classes the reins must not be attached to the saddle and must run directly from the bit to the child's hands with no interruption.
- iii) In lead rein classes the lead rein must only be attached to the noseband.
- iv) All Lead Rein and First Ridden ponies must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle only with the exception of Mountain and Moorland First Ridden when they may use any suitable bridle.

*(Working Hunter (W.H.) /Working Hunter Pony (W.H.P.))*

- i) In W.H. /W.H.P. classes the use of any nosebands and martingales are permitted.
- ii) Working Hunter classes for BOTH ponies and horses – No hind boots or bandages of any description are allowed in the collecting ring, warm-up area or in the actual class.

#### h) **Shoeing**

- i) If shod, only normal shaped shoes that do not cover the frog are permissible. Normal shaped open heeled plastic stick-on shoes are permissible. No bar shoes, pads or gel pads are allowed.

#### **4) HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW ENTRIES/ADMINISTRATION**

- a) All entries for Horse of the Year Show and Horse of the Year Show qualifying rounds must be submitted through the Grandstand Online Entries System (<http://www.grandstandentries.com>).
- b) Substitution or nomination entries are NOT permitted.
- c) The person who pays for the entry is then deemed as the owner of that entry.
- d) No entry will be accepted without the full fee. In the event of **non or failed payment**, an administration fee will be charged and the entry refused until full payment has been made. Failure to exhibit will entail forfeiture of entry fees and charges for stabling, passes and horsebox parking if appropriate.
- e) **Trophies/Cups**
  - i) The winner of a Horse of the Year Show perpetual cup is held responsible for its safe return the following year. These trophies remain the property of Horse of the Year Show. Cups and trophies must be returned to Horse of the Year Show by the date requested. Entries may not be accepted if any trophies belonging to Horse of the Year Show are not returned by the requested date.



f) **Change of Ownership**

- i) Changes of ownership or Exhibitor must be submitted in writing by the seller to the Horse of the Year Show office before any change to said entry is made.
- ii) All transfers of ownership must be correctly registered with the relevant society within 30 days of purchase, or before the final at HOYS, whichever is sooner.

**5) MEASUREMENT**

- a) In height restricted classes, unless otherwise stated in the specific class rules, the rules on the measurement of animals are in accordance with the Joint Measurement Board (JMB) Rule Book, which can be obtained from the Joint Measurement Board Ltd, PO Box 396, Hereford, HR1 9QQ or [www.thejmbonline.co.uk](http://www.thejmbonline.co.uk) (Tel: 01981 510201). The JMB Rules include a list of official measurers and the fees required. Measurements can be made throughout the year; all Annual Height certificates expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- b) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted **Horse/Pony** classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the **Horse/Pony** being removed, at the discretion of GML. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.
- c) For the Mountain and Moorland Ridden Pony of the Year and Junior Ridden Mountain and Moorland Pony of the Year, the Welsh Section D, Exmoor and Dales pony breeds are not required to obtain a JMB height certificate, as breed criteria does not specify an upper height limit. **For the Mountain & Moorland Exc. 143cm Working Hunter Pony of the Year, Welsh Section D animals are not required to obtain a JMB height certificate.**
- d) All animals competing in ridden height restricted classes that are resident in Ireland, may submit a copy of their current/valid IPS height certificate at the time of registration to one of the relevant societies. All animals resident in Ireland will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate as per the ruling above.
- e) Any objection to a Height Certificate must be received by the JMB no later than two clear working days after the last Horse of the Year Show qualifier. Any re-measurements must be completed at least seven working days before the commencement of Horse of the Year Show.
- f) If an objection to a Height Certificate is submitted to the JMB, the horse must be presented for measurement within 20 working days. Any animal that is re-called for re-measurement by the JMB and does not attend the re-measurement as requested shall, at the discretion of Horse of the Year Show, be unable to compete at the final.
- g) If case (f) occurs it will be at the discretion of Horse of the Year Show whether qualification will be passed to the next eligible exhibit with the eligible placings.



- h) An animal which has qualified for Horse of the Year Show which subsequently measures out of the class for which it has qualified, it will then be ineligible to compete at any Horse of the Year Show qualifiers for the remainder of that season and previous qualification for that year will be rescinded, subject to GML discretion.
- i) If case (h) occurs the qualification will be passed to the next eligible exhibit with the eligible placings, **subject to GML discretion.**
- j) The animal's height must fall within the height restrictions of the class on the day of competition.

## 6) JUDGING OF CLASSES

- a) Judges who judge HOYS qualifiers or at HOYS must abide by and comply with the HOYS Rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken against the judge.
- b) In all cases the judge's decision is final.
- c) Ridden animals must NOT be escorted beyond the entrance to the ring.
- d) No person, including exhibitors, handlers or grooms, should enter the ring at any time without the judge's permission. When permission is granted to enter the ring, a person must be suitably attired and wear a hat at all times.
- e) A class is deemed to have commenced when an animal enters the ring, if the judge is present in the ring. If the judge is not present, then the class shall commence when the judge enters the ring.
- f) Exhibitors will not be allowed into the ring after the ponies/horses have been asked to trot.
- g) Exhibitors are under the jurisdiction of the judge(s) until asked to leave the line, after rosettes have been presented. Judges should consider behaviour at prize giving and should take action if appropriate.
- h) All ridden classes are to be judged using a marks system at Horse of the Year Show. The details of how marks are to be allocated can be found in the class specific information. Details on the marking system to be used in qualifying rounds can be found in the class specific information.
- i) Marks must be recorded in ink; judges must not alter marks unless in extreme circumstances, if the marks are altered, the judge MUST sign the marksheet and initial the alteration.
- j) Mark Sheets must not be displayed until the Championship of the specific Class/es has been completed.
- k) Judges have the right to alter placings if an animal misbehaves after the marks have been awarded.
- l) If a mistake in the marks is discovered, even after dismissing a class, it MUST be corrected and any qualification/result amended.
- m) Where there are more than 26 entries forward, with the exception of the Ridden Heavy Horse where if there are more than 20 entries forward, in a ridden class the judges should:



- i) Split the class into sections according to the circumstances on the day.
- ii) Each section is judged, and the marks are not to be displayed at this point and no rosettes awarded.
- iii) For the final judging, all horses/ponies should be invited back into the ring and lined up in any order. No further show will be given.
- iv) The highest placed animal (not already qualified) from the first three or five (dependant on the specific class ruling) in the final judging will qualify for Horse of the Year Show, with the exception of the BSHA National Championship Show and the BSPS Championship Show.

## **7) JUDGES**

### **a) Requirement of Judges**

- i) Horse of the Year Show reserves the right in its absolute discretion to not appoint judges for Horse of the Year Show qualifiers and the Final.
- ii) Judges must make themselves fully conversant with the Rules and Recommendations of the Association/Society that they are members of, and Horse of the Year Show.
- iii) Judges who accept to judge at the Final of Horse of the Year Show will be asked specifically to adhere to Rules (i) and (ii). The other rules apply to both the Final and the qualifying shows.

### **Final (Horse of the Year Show)**

*Judges must not:*

- i. Own, produce or exhibit any horse/pony for any Horse of the Year Show qualifiers leading to the Championship class he/she is judging at Horse of the Year Show in that year.
- ii. Judge, own, produce or exhibit any horse/pony in any competition taking place at Horse of the Year Show on the same day as he/she is judging.

### **Qualifying Shows and Final**

- i. Judge any horse/pony under the ownership or production of any person for whom he/she, his/her partner or business partner has provided or obtained livery or had any other connection (business or otherwise) since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year. Stud fees and associated costs are exempt as per society guidelines.
- ii. Judge any horse/pony that is or has been owned, bred, produced, trained, competed or exhibited by him/her, immediate family, business partner or partner. (NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt)
- iii. Judge any rider/handler who has shown a horse/pony owned, produced or trained by him/her since the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year. (NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt)
- iv. Judge any horse/pony owned or produced by a person from whom the judge has purchased horses/ponies or to whom he/she sold horses/ponies since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year in which he/she is judging.
- v. Undertake any judging appointment in the same season for open classes at an affiliated show, which are the same as the final which he/she is judging at Horse of the Year Show.
- vi. Compete in any class and judge a HOYS qualifier or final at the same show, on the same day. This also includes immediate family.



- b) If a judge has reasonable grounds or belief that any section of the above rulings are being contravened, then the judge must ask the rider/handler to leave the ring and the exhibit must withdraw.
- c) Judges may only accept to judge qualifying shows in accordance with the guidelines as set out in the class specific guidelines. Judges may judge an additional qualifier, if shows have been let down at short notice, providing the show asks the governing society in the first instance or Horse of the Year Show for approval.
- d) Judges will not ride ponies in Horse of the Year Show classes.
- e) In the event of a ride judge falling from an exhibit, they must not remount that exhibit in that class, that horse must be asked to leave the ring and will not be allowed to compete further in that class. In the event of a judge falling from an exhibit, it is at that judge's discretion as to whether they feel fit to continue judging. In the event of the judge not being fit to continue riding, a replacement judge may be found, or competitors will be asked to do an individual show. The organisers retain the right to over-ride a decision should they think the judge is unfit to continue.
- f) It is strongly advised and considered good practise to carry this Rule Book when judging Horse of the Year Show qualifiers and championships. It is preferable to have a Rule Book for reference if any questions or problems on rules arise.
- g) It is the duty of all judges to understand and comply with these rules and to ensure they are fit and well to judge.
- h) Judges who fail to observe Horse of the Year Show Rules or whose conduct in any respect shall be, in the opinion of Horse of the Year Show, derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of Horse of the Year Show, will be referred to the relevant Governing Society/Societies for action and will be dealt with in accordance their rules and disciplinary procedure, a copy of which will be lodged with the Horse of the Year Show office.
- i) Any judge currently involved in an investigation of whatsoever nature with a membership society may, at the discretion of GML, not be permitted to judge in HOYS qualifiers or at HOYS until the investigation has been resolved.

## **8) DOPE TESTING**

In common with the showing societies and other similar organisations, Grandstand Media Limited takes a very serious view of doping whether intentional or unintentional, having particular regard to the safety of people and the welfare of horses and/or ponies. All exhibitors/riders/owners/producers/grooms should be aware that feeds and preparations contain Prohibited Substances as do many foods.



It is the responsibility of the exhibitors/riders/owners/producers/grooms having custody of a pony, particularly in the 24 hours prior to a show, to ensure that nothing is fed, administered or applied to a pony that contains a prohibited substance. Ignorance is not an adequate defence.

Grandstand Media Limited is not authorised to give guidance, however follows the latest Equine Prohibited Substances List “EPSL” and where appropriate the guidance on threshold levels as published by Fédération Equestre Internationale (‘FEI’). More information is available on the FEI website under “Clean Sport for Horses” <https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/horses>. All substances on the list, whether indicated as ‘Banned’ or ‘Controlled, are prohibited substances under the Horse of the Year Show rules.

- a) Any competing horse or pony and any animal present at the show (whether or not competing) will be liable to Dope Testing in accordance with the Rules and Dope Testing procedure as laid down by any Society or governing body. Should Horse of the Year Show, at any time, be advised by any society or governing body that a positive dope test has been carried out and recorded against an animal, Horse of the Year Show may impose any or all of the following:
  - i) The horse/pony concerned will be automatically disqualified and shall forfeit its placings, awards and prize money.
  - ii) The Owner and/or Producer of such Horse may be suspended from Horse of the Year Show for a period to be decided at GML discretion.
  - iii) At the organisers discretion Horse of the Year Show may impose a fine of up to £3,000 and order the Owner and/or Producer to bear all costs incurred.
- b) At Horse of the Year Show an official appointed by Horse of the Year Show shall determine which pony/horse(s) should be tested. A refusal to submit a horse/pony for dope testing shall constitute a breach of this Rule.
- c) If the objection shall be determined against the Objector, he shall also be liable to the Show for the amount of costs and expenses occasioned by the objection and the determination thereof, unless in the opinion of the Organisers who determine the objection there existed good and reasonable grounds for the objection, when they may order to the contrary.
- d) Any animal which provides a positive dope test will then be ineligible to compete at Horse of the Year Show. Any previous qualification for that year will be rescinded and any future qualification within that year will not stand.
- e) Any exhibitors/riders/owners/producers or pony or horse that is suspended for any period of time as a result of any disciplinary action taken by the society or governing body including but not limited to; the British Show Horse Association, Sport Horse Breeding of Great Britain, Coloured Horse and Pony Society, British Show Pony Society, National Pony Society may not be able to compete in any Horse of the Year Show qualifier during the period of any such suspension unless Grandstand Media Limited, in its absolute discretion, decides otherwise after making such investigations as it deems appropriate.



## 9) SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY

We ask all HOYS people to carefully consider their use of social media, it is an individual's responsibility to act with integrity and courtesy towards others.

### a) In this Policy (Definitions)

- i) HOYS People and HOYS Person means; officers, staff, affiliated show organisers, exhibitors, riders, owners, producers, **grooms**, judges, stewards, sponsors, and all other volunteers, acting on behalf, connected with and associated with Horse of the Year Show; and
- ii) Social Media means all forms of social media that exist now or may exist in the future. **It also means all blogs/vlogs, chat rooms and other public forums or social platforms and applications that allow users to create and exchange content for information sharing and communication.**

### b) Scope of this Policy

- i) Horse of the Year Show **acknowledges the importance of the internet, Social Media sites and all other forms of electronic communication** (whether existing now or in the future) and the role which "Social Media" plays in the day-to-day lives of HOYS People.
- ii) This Social Media and Internet Policy forms part of the general Rules and Regulations of Horse of the Year Show. All HOYS People are deemed to have consented to all the provisions thereof:
  - a) in the case of exhibitors, riders, owners and producers, by submission of an entry to Horse of the Year Show or its qualifying rounds
  - b) in the case of officers, staff and all other volunteers, by the performance of their duties under their terms of employment or engagement;
  - c) in the case of affiliated show organisers and sponsors, by their participation in the Horse of the Year Show; and
  - d) in the case of judges and stewards by the application for and acceptance of their respective roles,
- iii) This Social Media and Internet Policy relates to the use of Social Media by all HOYS People and is intended to remind HOYS People that the Rules of Horse of the Year Show apply when using Social Media and the Internet in so far as such use relates to or affects Horse of the Year Show, Horse of the Year Show qualifiers, HOYS People. This Policy applies to the use of Social Media for business purpose as well as personal use that may affect the Horse of the Year Show in any way. Failure to adhere to this Policy could lead to disciplinary action being taken. Civil and/or criminal proceedings could also be brought against those in breach of this Policy where applicable.

### c) Using Social Media

- i) HOYS People should be aware that publication of information and comments on Social Media carries the same obligations as any other kind of publication and should follow the same ethical and legal standards.



- ii) Horse of the Year Show logos, images, brand names, slogans, and/or other trademarks are the subject of copyright and should not be copied or used in Social Media save as provided in the Horse of the Year Show website terms and conditions.
  - iii) HOYS People must ensure that any material that they transmit or post to Social Media is clearly stated to be their personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of Horse of the Year Show.
  - iv) HOYS People must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of Horse of the Year Show, HOYS People or former HOYS People or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of Horse of the Year Show.
  - v) HOYS People must not post or transmit any material relating to Horse of the Year Show, HOYS People, former HOYS People, their horses/ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from Horse of the Year Show:
    - a) that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience or;
    - b) which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of Horse of the Year Show Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in the UK or any other country in the world.
  - vi) Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the Horse of the Year Show Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against the HOYS Person or People who breach it.
- d) Horse of the Year Show accepts no liability for legal breaches by HOYS People on Social Media. Content published by those associated with Horse of the Year Show are fully accountable for their own actions. All HOYS People hereby indemnify Horse of the Year show in respect of any loss, liability, costs (including reasonable legal costs), damages or expenses it may suffer as a result of any breach of the terms of this Policy.
- e) HOYS People should be aware that Horse of the Year Show reserves the right to monitor intercept and review, without further notice, Social Media postings and activities that include references to it and/or its HOYS People or former HOYS People, to ensure that its rules and this Policy are being complied with and for legitimate purposes. All HOYS People consent to such monitoring by their agreeing to abide by all the rules, codes and policies in this Horse of the Year Show rule book. Horse of the Year Show may remove posts, threads and any other form of submissions from its own Social Media sites which are in breach of this Policy without explanation and the HOYS person responsible could be liable for disciplinary action.
- f) All HOYS People consent to the processing of their personal data by Horse of the Year Show in connection with any Social Media site or content relating to Horse of the Year Show. All



data given upon entry of a Horse of the Year Show qualifier is stored on the Grandstand Entries System. For full policy details please visit [www.grandstandentries.com](http://www.grandstandentries.com).

- g) Horse of the Year Show may require HOYS persons to remove postings, comments or any other submissions made using social media that are deemed to be in breach of this Policy. Failure to comply with such a request may result in disciplinary action.
- h) Grandstand Media Limited will not accept any form of criticism or complaint posted on any Social Media before it has been through the proper channels.

#### **10) DISCLOSURE UNDER LAW OR REGULATION**

You should be aware that Horse of the Year Show will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing Horse of the Year Show to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this policy. If requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities, to provide your personal information, Horse of the Year Show is entitled to do so.

#### **11) COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE**

- a) At any Horse of the Year Show qualifying round, any complaint or appeal pertaining to the result of the qualification, should be lodged with the Equestrian Manager of Grandstand Media Ltd either by email to [showsecretary@hoys.co.uk](mailto:showsecretary@hoys.co.uk), or by post to Grandstand Media Ltd, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ. All objections must be accompanied by a deposit of £100 and be received within 7 working days of the class.
- b) Horse of the Year Show is unable to accept objections involving Joint Measurement Board certificates.
- c) The objection shall be determined by the Appeals Committee, who may require and receive such evidence as they think fit and in particular may require the Objector or the Competitor in respect of which such objection was lodged to make a statutory declaration upon any question of fact concerning the matter of such objection. If the objection shall be determined against the Objector he/she shall also be liable to Grandstand Media Ltd. for the amount of costs and expenses occasioned by the objection and the determination thereof, unless in the opinion of Grandstand Media Ltd. who determine the objection there existed good and reasonable grounds for the objection, when they may order to the contrary.
- d) Grandstand Media Ltd. reserve the right to forward any evidence received in relation to an Objection to the relevant Governing Society/Societies as they see fit.
- e) At the Horse of the Year Show Final any objection or protest is to be lodged by obtaining a printed Objection Form from the Equestrian Manager at the Show which must be completed by and signed by the Objector and delivered to the Equestrian Manager for Showing competitions accompanied by a deposit of £250.00 in cash within an hour after the results have been announced in the arena, in respect of which the objection is lodged.



- f) The objection shall be determined by the Appeals Committee who may require and receive such evidence as they think fit and in particular may require the Objector or the Competitor in respect of which such objection was lodged to make a statutory declaration upon any question of fact concerning the matter of such objection. If the objection shall be determined against the Objector he shall also be liable to the Show for the amount of costs and expenses occasioned by the objection and the determination thereof, unless in the opinion of the Organisers who determine the objection there existed good and reasonable grounds for the objection, when they may order to the contrary.

## **12) CLASS SPECIFIC RULES**

### **A) MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND CLASSES**

#### ***MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND RIDDEN PONY OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to stallions, mares and geldings, four years old and over, to be registered in, and complying with the showing requirements of, the main body of their respective stud books. Partbreds are not eligible to compete.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Ponies must not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies.
- ii) Riders and Owners must be members of their respective Breed Society, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, The Showing Register or BSPS.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 3rd Place.
  
- iv) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted Pony classes, will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML. For this class, the Welsh Section D, Exmoor, and Dales pony breeds are not required to obtain a JMB height certificate, as breed criteria does not specify an upper height limit.
- v) Riders must not compete in the M&M Lead Rein and/or the M&M First Ridden Pony of the Year and the M&M Ridden Pony of the Year. This includes both at qualifiers and the Final.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges for mixed classes may be selected from either the NPS Mixed M&M panel, TSR H M&M panel, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum panels.
- ii) Any shows running single breed classes (including Breed Shows) may select judges from the appropriate Breed Panel. The show & freedom of action judge must be selected from a Ride panel. The breed type & conformation judge may be selected from either the Ride panel or the Conformation panel of the appropriate breed society.



- iii) Judges may only judge one qualifier of each breed section during the current year.
- iv) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Show, freedom of action                      50 maximum

Breed type and conformation              50 maximum

In the case of equality, the pony with the highest show, freedom of action mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

### **JUNIOR MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND RIDDEN PONY OF THE YEAR**

This class is open to mares and geldings, four years old and over, to be registered in, and complying with the showing requirements of, the main body of their respective stud books. Partbreds are not eligible to compete.

This class will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out within this Rule book.

This class is divided into the two sections as follows:

Section A            Small Breeds – Open to Dartmoor, Exmoor, Shetland, Welsh Section A or Welsh Section B ponies. Riders must not have attained their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.

Section B            Large Breeds – Open to New Forest, Connemara, Fells, Dales, Highland, Welsh Section C and Welsh Section D ponies. Riders must have attained their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year, and not have attained their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.

The qualifying ponies will be the highest placed exhibit within the top three of the small breed qualifier and the highest placed exhibit within the top three of the large breed qualifier.

Additional Rules:

- i) Ponies must not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies.
- ii) Riders and Owners must be members of their respective Breed Society, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 3rd place.
- iv) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted Pony classes, will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.

For this class, Welsh Section D, Exmoor, and Dales pony breeds are not required to obtain a JMB height certificate, as breed criteria does not specify an upper height limit.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges may be selected from either the NPS Mixed M&M Panel, TSR 'H' M&M Panel or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.



- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Any shows running single breed classes (including Breed Shows) may select judges from the appropriate Breed Panel. The show & freedom of action judge must be selected from a Ride panel. The breed type & conformation judge may be selected from either the Ride panel or the Conformation panel of the appropriate breed society.
- iv) Judges must not judge both the M&M Lead Rein/First Ridden Pony of the Year qualifier and the Junior M&M Pony of the Year qualifier at the same show.
- v) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Show, freedom of action                      50 maximum

Breed type and conformation              50 maximum

In the case of equality, the pony with the highest show, freedom of action mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

### ***MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND LEAD REIN AND FIRST RIDDEN PONY OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to Mountain and Moorland mares and geldings four years old and over to be registered in, and complying with the showing requirements of, the main body of their respective Stud Books.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this rule book.

The class is divided into three sections and must run in the following order:

Section A              Mountain and Moorland Welsh Breeds Lead Rein - Ponies not to exceed 122cm however ponies must also not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies. Riders must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of the competition, but must not have attained their 9th birthday before the 1st January in the current year.

Section B              Mountain and Moorland First Ridden - Ponies not to exceed 128cm however ponies must also not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies. Riders must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of competition, and not have attained their 12th birthday before the 1st January in the current year.

Section C              Mountain and Moorland Non-Welsh Breeds Lead Rein - Ponies not to exceed 122cm however ponies must also not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies. Riders must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of the competition, but must not have attained their 9th birthday before the 1st January in the current year.



Additional Rules:

- i) Riders and Owners must be members of their respective Breed Society, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- ii) Qualification will not pass below 3rd place.
- iii) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted Pony classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.
- iv) Riders must not compete in the M&M Lead Rein and/or the M&M First Ridden Pony of the Year and the M&M Ridden Pony of the Year. This includes both at qualifiers and the Final.

Judging Guidelines:

- i. Judges may be selected from either the NPS Mixed M&M Panel, BSPS HR\* Panel, TSR H M&M Panel, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.
- ii. Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii. Any shows running single breed classes (including Breed Shows) may select judges from the appropriate Breed Panel. The show & freedom of action judge must be selected from a Ride panel. The breed type & conformation judge may be selected from either the Ride panel or the Conformation panel of the appropriate breed society.
- iv. Judges must not judge both the M&M Lead Rein/First Ridden Pony of the Year qualifier and the Junior M&M Pony of the Year qualifier at the same show.
- v. Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Show, freedom of action                      50 maximum

Breed type and conformation              50 maximum

In the case of equality, the pony with the highest show, freedom of action mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

***MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND WORKING HUNTER PONY OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to mares and geldings, stallions are permitted, excluding in Section A as riders have not attained their 12th birthday. Ponies must be four years old and over, to be registered in and complying with the showing requirements of the main body of their respective stud books. Partbreds are not eligible to compete.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

The class is divided into five sections and must run in the following order:

- Section A              Ponies not exceeding 122cm, riders must not have attained their 12th birthday before the 1st January in the current year.
- Section B              Ponies not exceeding 122cm



Section C	Ponies exceeding 122cm but not exceeding 133cm
Section D	Ponies exceeding 133cm but not exceeding 143cm
Section E	Ponies exceeding 143cm

**Additional Rules:**

- i) Ponies must not exceed the height limits as stipulated by the relevant Breed Societies.
- ii) Riders and Owners must be members of their respective Breed Society, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 3rd place.
- iv) Riders and ponies may compete in both section A and section B at HOYS qualifiers.
- v) Once a pony has qualified in either section A or section B it will no longer be eligible to compete in the section in which it has not qualified.
- vi) Ponies may not compete in both section A and section B at Horse of the Year Show, whichever section a pony qualifies in first will be the section it must compete in at the final.
- vii) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted Pony classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.
- viii) In the Championship of the Mountain and Moorland Working Hunter Ponies, the Junior 122cm section must be galloped separately.

**Judging Guidelines:**

- i) Judges may be selected from either the NPS Mixed M&M Panel, BSPS HR\* plus BSPS HW Panel, TSR H M&M Panel, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier in the current year and marks must be awarded as follows:

**PHASE I (70 MARKS)**

A: JUMPING POINTS 50 MARKS

B: STYLE WHILE JUMPING 20 MARKS

**PHASE II (30 MARKS)**

C: BREED TYPE & CONFORMATION 20 MARKS

D: INDIVIDUAL SHOW & MANNERS 10 MARKS

**PENALTIES**

Jumping Knock Down: 10 penalties

First Refusal: 15 penalties

Second Refusal: 20 penalties

Third Refusal: Elimination

Fall of Pony or Rider: Disqualification



## Jumping Course Guidelines

Mountain & Moorland Working Hunter ponies must jump a 12 fence track. Please note the fence height guidelines shown below which must be enforced for each section. Course Builders must be selected from a recognised Society panel (British Showjumping, British Eventing, BSPS or NPS).

In Section A (Junior 122cm Mountain & Moorland Working Hunter Pony) the course of fences must contain only one double and no water tray.

Qualifier Height	Fence Height (Min)	Fence Height (Max)	Spread (Max)
Not exc. 122cm (Junior)	45cm	60cm	50cm
Not exc. 122cm	55cm	70cm	55cm
Exc. 122cm but not exc. 133cm	65cm	80cm	65cm
Exc. 133cm but not exc. 143cm	75cm	90cm	75cm
Exc. 143cm	85cm	100cm	85cm

At the final, the height and width of fences for the Mountain & Moorland Working Hunter Pony classes may be increased by approximately 5cm - 10cm from the qualifying height. This will be at the discretion of the Course Builder on the day.

Please see guideline heights:

Final Height	Fence Height (Min)	Fence Height (Max)	Spread (Max)
Not exc. 122cm (Junior)	55cm	70cm	60cm
Not exc. 122cm	65 cm	80cm	65cm
Exc. 122cm but not exc. 133cm	75cm	90cm	75cm
Exc. 133cm but not exc. 143cm	85cm	100cm	85cm
Exc. 143cm	95cm	110cm	95cm

In the event of equality, the TOTAL MARK from Phase 1 will take precedence, followed by the Individual Show & Manners Mark, and then the Breed Type & Conformation Mark.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.







- Section A Ponies not exceeding 123cm. Riders not to have attained their 12th birthday before 1st January in the current year.
- Section B Ponies exceeding 123cm and not exceeding 133cm. Riders not to have attained their 14th birthday before 1st January in the current year.
- Section C Ponies exceeding 133cm and not exceeding 143cm. Riders not to have attained their 17th birthday before 1st January in the current year.
- Section D Ponies exceeding 143cm and not exceeding 153cm. Riders not to have attained their 20th birthday before 1st January in the current year.

**Additional Rules:**

- i) Ponies must be registered with either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- ii) Riders and Owners must be members of either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- iv) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted Pony classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.

**Judging Guidelines:**

- i) Judges may be selected from either the NPS, BSPS, The Showing Register, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Manners & Way of Going 50 Marks Maximum

Conformation, Type & Freedom of Action 50 Marks Maximum

In the case of equality, the pony with the highest Manners & Way of Going mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

**LEAD REIN PONY OF HUNTER TYPE OF THE YEAR**

This competition is open to mares and geldings four years old or over.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

**Additional Rules as:**

- i) Ponies not exceeding 122cm. Riders must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of the competition and not to have attained their 9th birthday before 1st January in the current year.





- ii) Ponies must be registered with either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- iii) Riders and Owners must be members of either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- iv) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- v) **A rider can ride up to two ponies in a qualifying class.**
- vi) **There can be no change of rider between Phase I and Phase II**
- vii) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted Pony classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.

Jumping Course Guidelines:

Working Hunter ponies must jump a 12 fence track. Please note the fence height guidelines shown below which must be enforced for each section. Course Builders must be selected from a recognised Society panel (British Showjumping, British Eventing, BSPS or NPS).

<u>Qualifier Height</u>	<u>Max Fence Height</u>	<u>Spread</u>
Not exc. 133cm	85cm	90cm
143cm	100cm	105cm
153cm	105cm	110cm
Intermediate	115cm	120cm

The height and width of fences for the Working Hunter Pony classes may be increased by approximately 5cm - 10cm from the qualifying height at the final.

<u>Final Height</u>	<u>Max Fence Height</u>	<u>Spread</u>
Not exc. 133cm	95cm	105cm
143cm	110cm	120cm
153cm	115cm	125cm
Intermediate	125cm	135cm

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges may be selected from either the NPS, BSPS, TSR, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.



iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

**PHASE I** (70 MARKS)

A: JUMPING POINTS 50 MARKS

B: STYLE WHILE JUMPING 20 MARKS

**PHASE II** (30 MARKS)

C: CONFORMATION, TYPE AND FREEDOM OF ACTION 20 MARKS

D: MANNERS & WAY OF GOING 10 MARKS

**PENALTIES**

Jumping Knock Down: 10 penalties

First Refusal: 15 penalties

Second Refusal: 20 penalties

Third Refusal: Elimination

Fall of Pony or Rider: Disqualification

In the event of equality the TOTAL MARK from Phase I will take precedence, followed by the MANNERS Mark, and then the CONFORMATION, TYPE and FREEDOM OF ACTION MARK.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

***RIDDEN PARTBRED PONY OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to stallions, mares or geldings 4 years old and over, registered within one or more of the following stud books:

The Partbred or Anglo Arab section of the Arab Horse Society with a minimum of 12.5% Arab blood.

The Partbred section of the Welsh Pony & Cob Stud Books with a minimum of 12.5% Welsh blood.

The Partbred section of the Dartmoor Pony Stud Book with a minimum of 12.5% Dartmoor blood.

The Partbred section of the British Connemara Stud Book with a minimum of 25% Connemara blood.

The Partbred section of the New Forest Pony Stud Book with a minimum of 25% New Forest blood.

This class will be run under the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

**Additional Rules:**

- i) Animals must not exceed 148cm and will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner.



- ii) A copy of the pony's passport, showing its registration or over stamping with either the AHS, WPCS, DPS, BCPS or NFPB&CS must be logged with Grandstand Media Ltd prior to entry in any qualifying round.
- iii) All ponies must be shown plaited and in tack appropriate to type. Riders are permitted to wear tweed or navy jackets.
- iv) Riders and Owners must be members of either NPS, TSR, UK Horses & Ponies, BSPS, CHAPS, AHS, WPCS, DPS, BCPS or NFPB&CS
- v) Riders can be of any age with the exceptions of those riding stallions who must have obtained their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- vi) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.

**Judging Guidelines:**

- i) Judges may be selected from ridden plaited pony panels of the NPS, TSR, UK Horses & Ponies, BSPS, and the appropriate panels of CHAPS, AHS, WPCS, Dartmoor, Connemara and New Forest.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Performance 50 Marks Maximum

Conformation, Movement & Quality 50 Marks Maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Performance mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

**C) INTERMEDIATE CLASSES**

***INTERMEDIATE SHOW HUNTER OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to mares or geldings 4 years old and over.

This class will be run under the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

**Additional Rules:**

- i) Animals exceeding 148cm but not exceeding 158cm. Riders not to have attained their 25th birthday before 1st January in the current year.
- ii) Horses must be registered with either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, **BSHA, SHB(GB)** or BSPS.
- iii) Riders and Owners must be members of either NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, **BSHA, SHB(GB)** or BSPS.
- iv) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- v) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.



Judging Guidelines:

- i) **One Judge must be selected from the either the BSHA or SHB(GB) Full Judges Panel and one must be selected from either the NPS, BSPS, TSR, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.**
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Manners & Way of Going 50 Marks Maximum

Conformation, Type & Freedom of Action 50 Marks Maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Manners & Way of Going mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

***INTERMEDIATE SHOW HORSE OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to mares or geldings, 4 years old and over. Horses to be of Hack, Riding Horse or Show Riding Type.

This class will run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Animals exceeding 148cm but not exceeding 160cm.
- ii) Riders not to have attained their 25th birthday before 1st January in the current year.
- iii) Horses must be registered with either BSHA, **SHB (GB)**, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- iv) Riders and Owners must be members of either BSHA, **SHB(GB)**, NPS, UK Ponies & Horses, TSR, or BSPS.
- v) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- vi) All Animals competing in ridden height restricted classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. Failure to do so may result in qualification of the pony being removed, at the discretion of GML.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) One Judge must be selected from the BSHA Full Judges Panel and one must be selected from either the NPS, BSPS, TSR, or UK Horses & Ponies Gold and Platinum Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Manners & Way of Going 50 Marks Maximum

Conformation, Type & Freedom of Action 50 Marks Maximum



In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Manners & Way of Going mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

#### **D) HACKS, COBS, RIDING HORSES AND HUNTERS**

##### **MAXI COB OF THE YEAR**

This competition is open to mares and geldings, four years old or over, that must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Horses must exceed 155cms.
- ii) All Riders, Owners and Producers must be Members of the British Show Horse Association.
- iii) Horses must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.
- iv) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- v) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the BSHA Full Judges Panel only.
- ii) **Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year, and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart.**
- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

##### **COB OF THE YEAR**

This competition is open to mares and geldings, four years old or over, that must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this rule book.



Additional Rules:

- i) Lightweight Cob must exceed 148cms but not exceed 155cms, to be capable of carrying up to 14 stone.
- ii) Heavyweight Cob must exceed 148cms but not exceed 155cms, to be capable of carrying more than 14 stone.
- iii) All Riders, Owners and Producers must be Members of the British Show Horse Association.
- iv) Horses must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.
- v) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- vi) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the BSHA Full Judges Panel only.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart.
- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

***RIDING HORSE OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to mares and geldings, four years old or over, that must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Small Riding Horse must exceed 148cms but not exceed 158cms.
- ii) Large Riding Horse must exceed 158cms.
- iii) All Riders, Owners and Producers must be Members of the British Show Horse Association.
- iv) Horses must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.
- v) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- vi) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.



Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the BSHA Full Judges Panel only.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart.
- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

**HACK OF THE YEAR**

This competition is open to mares and geldings, four years old or over, that must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Small Hack must exceed 148cms but not exceed 154cms.
- ii) Large Hack must exceed 154cms but not exceed 160cms.
- iii) All Riders, Owners and Producers must be Members of the British Show Horse Association.
- iv) Horses must be registered with the British Show Horse Association.
- v) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- vi) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the BSHA Full Judges Panel only.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year, and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart.
- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.



### **LADIES' SIDE SADDLE HORSE OF THE YEAR**

This competition is open to mares or geldings, 4 years old or over, exceeding 148cm, to be ridden side saddle by a lady.

This class will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Owners, Riders and Producers must be members of the British Show Horse Association (BSHA), The Showing Register (TSR) or Sport Horse Breeding GB (SHB (GB)), and all horses must be registered with the BSHA, TSR or SHB (GB).
- ii) Exhibits will be required to gallop/extend together during the Go Round phase.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- iv) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Ride judges must be selected from the BSHA Side Saddle Ride or **SHB(GB) Ladies Ride panel** and conformation judges must be on all BSHA panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year, and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart.
- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

### **SHOW HUNTER OF THE YEAR**

For hunters, mares or geldings, 4 years old or over, to be ridden.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

This class will be divided into three sections as follows:

Section A        Lightweight hunter, mare or gelding, 4 years old or over, capable of carrying up to 12 stone 7lbs

Section B        Middleweight hunter, mare or gelding, 4 years old or over, capable of carrying from 12 stone 7lbs to 14 stone

Section C        Heavyweight hunter, mare or gelding, 4 years old or over, capable of carrying more than 14 stone



Additional Rules:

- i) Owners, Riders and Producers must be members of the British Show Horse Association (BSHA), The Showing Register (TSR) or Sport Horse Breeding GB (SHB (GB)), and all horses must be registered with the BSHA, TSR or SHB (GB).
- ii) Entries in this class may not compete in the Small Show Hunter of the Year, and vice versa.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- iv) Competitors must enter their horses in the appropriate sections, but section A will be judged first, and the judges shall have the power to transfer exhibits to section B or C if they deem it necessary.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from one of the following panels: the BSHA Hunter panel or SHB (GB) Ridden and Conformation Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart. For these purposes: Ridden Hunter and Working Hunter classes are to be counted separately; and overseas shows are not included.
- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

**WORKING HUNTER OF THE YEAR**

For Working Hunters, any weight, mares, geldings or stallions (competing stallions must have a red, white and blue ribbon displayed in their tail) four years old or over, exceeding 148cm, to be ridden.

This class will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Any horse which has qualified as a Grade A Show Jumper or Advanced Event Horse as at 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year is not eligible to compete in Working Hunter classes.
- ii) Owners, Riders and Producers must be members of the British Show Horse Association (BSHA), The Showing Register (TSR) or Sport Horse Breeding GB (SHB (GB)), and all horses must be registered with the BSHA, TSR or SHB (GB).
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- iv) If there are two Working Hunter Classes, i.e. a Lightweight and Heavyweight Class, then there must be a Championship Class to determine which horse qualifies. Both classes will be jumped over the same course and height. When judging the Championship, Judges will use the marks they have already allocated as a guide. The Championship is only open to the first and second prize winners in the light and heavyweight Working Hunter classes respectively. The four horses forward in the Working Hunter Championship must all be placed as any one of the top three could be eligible for HOYS qualification.



- v) HOYS LIGHTWEIGHT WORKING HUNTER – Mare, gelding or stallion, 4 years old and over, capable of carrying 12 stone 7lbs and under. Small Hunters to be included in this category. HOYS HEAVYWEIGHT WORKING HUNTER – Mare, gelding or stallion, 4 years old and over, capable of carrying over 12 stone 7lbs. Middleweight Hunters to be included in this category. Failure to jump in the correct section will result in elimination.
- vi) At qualifiers the fences will not exceed **1.15m in height**, there should be a minimum of 8 fences and a maximum of 12 fences. The course must contain a combination and should contain a water tray. This class will be judged in two parts. Part One (Jumping) will be judged first, without a jump-off. All clear rounds and any other horses the judges may require will go forward to the next part.
- vii) At the Final of Horse of the Year Show fences will not exceed 1.20m in height. A rider can ride up to two horses in the jumping phase but then must select only one horse to take forward into the ride and conformation section if so required (no change of rider is allowed).
- viii) At the final of Horse of the Year Show, the horse/rider combination must be declared no later than thirty minutes before the scheduled start time of the class. No change of rider will be allowed once this declaration has been made.
- ix) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from one of the following panels: the BSHA Hunter Panel or SHB (GB) Ridden and Conformation Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year, and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart. For these purposes:

Ridden Hunter and Working Hunter classes are to be counted separately; and overseas shows are not included.

- iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

<b>PHASE I</b>	(60 MARKS)
A: JUMPING POINTS	40 MARKS
B: STYLE WHILE JUMPING	20 MARKS
<b>PHASE II</b>	(40 MARKS)
C: CONFORMATION	20 MARKS
D: RIDE	20 MARKS

Course Builders must be selected from a recognised Society panel (British Showjumping, British Eventing, BSPS or NPS).



## **PENALTIES**

Jumping Knock Down: 10 Faults

First Refusal: 15 Faults

Second Refusal: 20 Faults

Third Refusal: Elimination

Fall of Horse or Rider: Elimination

Landing with Forefeet in water: 10 Faults

In the event of equality the CONFORMATION MARK from Phase II will take precedence, followed by the RIDE MARK and then the STYLE MARK.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

### ***SMALL SHOW HUNTER OF THE YEAR***

For Small Hunters, mare or gelding, 4 years old or over, exceeding 148cm and not exceeding 158cm, to be ridden.

This class will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Owners, Riders and Producers must be members of the British Show Horse Association (BSHA), The Showing Register (TSR) or Sport Horse GB (SHB (GB)) and all horses must be registered with the BSHA, TSR or SHB (GB).
- ii) Entries in this Class may not compete in the Show Hunter of the Year, and vice versa.
- iii) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- iv) All animals competing in ridden height restricted Horse classes will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. A valid JMB number must be submitted to the relevant society on receipt from the JMB.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from one of the following panels, the BSHA Hunter Panel or SHB (GB) Ridden and Conformation Panels.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year, and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart. For these purposes:

Ridden Hunter and Working Hunter classes are to be counted separately; and overseas shows are not included.

- iii) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation        50 maximum



In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

## **E) ARABS, COLOURED, MINIATURES AND VETERANS**

### ***AMERICAN MINIATURE HORSE OF THE YEAR***

All exhibits must be registered with the AMHA, AMHR or AMHCGB (Section A/Purebred) and nominated with the UKAMHS for the current show year.

Owners and handlers must be current members of the UKAMHS and have paid the appropriate UKAMHS 2026 fees. This class will be run in accordance with the UK American Miniature Horse Society guidelines, which for the avoidance of doubt will be considered rules for Horse of the Year Show and its qualifiers, however the general rules as set out within this Rule book will take precedence.

This class will be divided into four sections at county shows and 8 sections at breed shows, as below:

#### ***County Shows***

- Section A** American Miniature Horse Yearling - 1 Year old Colts, Fillies and Geldings not to exceed 32 inches.
- Section B** American Miniature Horse Two-Year-Old – 2 Year old Colts, Fillies and Geldings not to exceed 33 inches.
- Section C** American Miniature Horse Senior Mares & Geldings - Registered Mares & Geldings. 3 Years old and over not to exceed 34 inches.
- Section D** American Miniature Horse Senior Stallions - Registered Stallions 3 Years old and over not to exceed 34 inches.

#### ***Breed Shows***

This class will be divided into six sections as follows:

- Section A** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Junior Mare - Registered yearling and two-year-old mares. Yearlings not to exceed 32 inches, two-year-olds not to exceed 33 inches.
- Section B** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Junior Gelding - Registered yearling and two-year-old geldings. Yearlings not to exceed 32 inches, two-year-olds not to exceed 33 inches.
- Section C** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Junior Stallion - Registered yearling and two-year-old stallions. Yearlings not to exceed 32 inches, two-year-olds not to exceed 33 inches.
- Section D** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Senior Mare - Registered mares three years old and over. Not to exceed 34 inches.
- Section E** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Senior Gelding - Registered geldings three years old and over. Not to exceed 34 inches.



**Section F** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Senior Stallion - Registered stallions three years old and over. Not to exceed 34 inches.

The following two classes are optional extras that a breed show may run:

**Section G** UKAMHS American Miniature Stock Horse - Registered Mares, Geldings and Stallions exceeding one year of age. Not to exceed 34 inches.

**Section H** UKAMHS American Miniature Horse Ultra Mini – Registered Mares, Geldings and Stallions exceeding one year of age. Not to exceed 30 inches.

**Additional Rules:**

- i) Measuring will only take place at designated measuring venues and dates. It is the responsibility of the Owner/ Handler to ensure horses are measured prior to entering a qualifier.
- ii) Qualification will not pass below 6<sup>th</sup> place.
- iii) The six horses forward in the Championship must all be placed as any one of the six could be eligible for HOYS qualification.

**Judging Guidelines:**

- i) Judges must be selected from the UK American Miniature Horse Society panel.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.

**Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.**

***RIDDEN PUREBRED ARAB OF THE YEAR***

Open to horses qualified in open ridden classes at a qualifying show in 2026

Owners of qualified horses must be members of the Arab Horse Society and the horse registered in their owner's name. The exhibitor must have purchased an AHS Q card displaying the name of the horse.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

This class will be divided into three sections as follows:

Section A Ridden Purebred Arab Gelding

Section B Ridden Purebred Arab Stallion

Section C Ridden Purebred Arab Mare

The qualifying horse will be the highest placed exhibit within the Championship of the separate mare, stallion and gelding sections. The exhibit must not have previously qualified. If a rider has qualified more than one horse, the rider may elect another rider for the Championship, provided the elected rider meets the required membership criteria. No change of rider will be permitted once the Championship has commenced.



Additional Rules:

- i) Qualification will not pass below 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Championship.
- ii) The six horses forward in the Championship must all be placed as any one of the six could be eligible for HOYS qualification.

Method of Judging at the final:

- i) The section will be split into two halves, one half will remain for one judge to ride the exhibits, while at the same time the other half will be judged for conformation, action in hand, soundness and type.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the appropriate Arab Horse Society List of Judges.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) It is preferential for separate judges to be used for the ridden and conformation sections.
- iv) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way. Qualifiers should be marked in the following way:

Ride                      50 maximum

Conformation      50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

**COLOURED HORSE & PONY OF THE YEAR**

This competition is open to mares, geldings, CHAPS (UK) graded stallions are permitted, excluding in Section A. Ponies must be four years old or over, to be registered in, and complying with the showing requirements of, the main body of the stud books of the Coloured Horse and Pony Society CHAPS (UK) or the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association (TGCA). Stallions are required to wear CHAPS (UK) stallion discs in order to compete.

All Riders and Owners must be Members of the Coloured Horse and Pony Society, The Showing Register or the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

This class will be divided into Five sections, the Junior Ridden must run first, if applicable.

Section A      Junior Ridden Native/Cob/Traditional up to and including 148cm and Non-Native Ponies up to and including 153cm. Riders not to have attained their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the current year.

Section B      Ridden Non-Native Ponies up to and including 153cm

Section C      Ridden Non-Native Horses exceeding 153cm

Section D      Ridden Native/Cob/Traditional Ponies up to and including 148cm

Section E      Ridden Native/Cob/Traditional Horses exceeding 148cm



#### Additional Rules:

- i) Animals must be black and white or white and any other colour with a patch of naturally occurring white coat above the level of the stifle or elbow, excluding any face markings. Any white marking below this does not qualify. Manes and tails may also be white or have white in them. Solid colours, appaloosa or spotted animals with belly markings do not qualify.
- ii) No spurs when ridden by a junior rider or by any rider competing in the pony sections (Non-Native not exceeding 153cm, Native/Cob/Trad not exceeding 148cm)
- iii) Riders and ponies may compete in both section A, B and D at qualifiers.
- iv) Once a pony has qualified in either section A, B, or D it will no longer be eligible to compete in the section in which it has not qualified.
- v) Ponies may not compete in both section A, section B and section D at Horse of the Year Show, whichever section a pony qualifies in first will be the section it must compete in at the final.
- vi) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- vii) All horses/ponies must be produced for the finals in the same type category to which they qualified.
- viii) In the Championship of the Coloured Horse and Pony the Junior section must be galloped separately
- ix) For height restricted classes animals will be required to be in possession of a current/valid JMB height certificate within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner.
- x) Failure to comply with any of the rules will result in the forfeit of the qualifying place.

#### Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the CHAPS (UK) Horse of the Year Show panel or the TSR Coloured H panel.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Judges have the option to either pull exhibits into line or to have a 'no pull' system of exhibits into the preliminary line up.
- iv) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Ride, Manners, Way of Going            50 maximum

Conformation and Type                    50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Ride, Manners, Way of Going mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.



### **MINIATURE HORSE OF THE YEAR**

All exhibits must be registered with the British Miniature Horse Society.

Exhibitors, owners and handlers must be current members of the BMHS and have paid the appropriate BMHS 2026 Showing Levy. This class will be divided into three sections as follows:

- Section A      Licenced Registered Stallions.  
3 Year Olds not to exceed 86cm; 4 Year Olds and over not to exceed 87cm
- Section B      Registered Mares & Geldings.  
3 Year Olds not to exceed 86cm; 4 Year Olds and over not to exceed 87cm
- Section C      Registered Youngstock 1 & 2 Year Old Colts, Fillies and Geldings.  
Yearlings not to exceed 82cm; 2 Year Olds not to exceed 84cm

The qualifying horse will be the highest placed exhibit within the Championship of the separate stallion, mare/gelding and youngstock sections.

These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.

Additional Rules:

- i) Handlers under the age of 14 must wear a correctly secured British Standard Skull Cap/Riding Hat that meets current Safety Standards.
- ii) Yearlings and Two Year Olds must not be bitted. Stallions 3 years old and over may be bitted. Suitable Snaffle bits only.
- iii) Measuring will only take place at designated measuring venues and dates. It is the responsibility of the Owner/ Handler to ensure horses are measured.
- iv) Qualification will not pass below 6<sup>th</sup> place.
- v) The six horses forward in the Championship must all be placed as any one of the six could be eligible for HOYS qualification.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the British Miniature Horse Society panel.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

### **RIDDEN VETERAN HORSE OF THE YEAR**

**Riders of qualified horses must be members of the Veteran Horse Society, and the horse must be registered with the VHS. The exhibitor must have purchased a VHS/HOYS Showing card displaying the name of the horse.**

**This class will be run in accordance with the Veteran Horse Society guidelines, which for the avoidance of doubt will be considered rules for Horse of the Year Show and its qualifiers, however the general rules as set out within this Rule book will take precedence.**



This class will be divided into three sections as follows:

- Section A Ridden Pre Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- Section B Ridden Veteran (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- Section C Ridden Diamond Veteran (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

The qualifying horse will be the highest placed exhibit within the Championship of the separate pre veteran, veteran and diamond veteran.

**Additional Rules:**

- i) Qualification will not pass below 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Championship.
- ii) The six horses forward in the Championship must all be placed as any one of the six could be eligible for HOYS qualification.
- iii) Remedial shoeing, pads and/or hoof boots are permitted.
- iv) Competitors (to include lead rein handlers) must be amateurs. The VHS definition of an amateur can be found in the VHS Rulebook.
- v) Gallop/extended canter is not allowed. Any intentional gallop/extended canter will lead to disqualification.
- vi) Marks will be deducted if an age badge is not displayed in a HOYS Qualifier and Final.

**Judging Guidelines:**

- i) Judges must be selected from the appropriate Veteran Horse Society List of Judges.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iii) Marks must be awarded in the following way:

Suitability, performance and manners	50 maximum
Condition for age, suppleness and turnout	50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest Suitability, performance and manners mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

**Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.**

#### **F) HEAVY HORSES AND DRIVEN CLASSES**

##### ***SHIRE HORSE OF THE YEAR***

The class is open purebred Shire Horse stallions, mares and geldings, 2 years old and over that are registered in, and complying with the showing requirements of the Shire Horse Society.

All Owners, Handlers and Exhibitors must be Members of the Shire Horse Society.



This class will be run in accordance with the Shire Horse Society guidelines, which for the avoidance of doubt will be considered rules for Horse of the Year Show and its qualifiers, however the general rules as set out within this Rule book will take precedence.

Additional Rules:

- i) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- ii) Horses must be entered in the name and ownership in which they are registered.
- iii) Horses should be turned out in a traditional manner, with flights.
- iv) Horse's docks must be covered with a fan of hair in accordance with the Shire Horse Society rules.
- v) The turning up of coats is not permitted, in accordance with the Shire Horse Society rulebook.
- vi) At the final and qualifiers, horses may have foot inspections carried out by a Shire Horse Society farrier and vet. Horses must be correctly shod in accordance with the shoeing standards, as detailed in The Shire Horse Society rulebook. Horses may be shown unshod.
- vii) Horses that are part bred or from the Grade A, B or C Registers of the Shire Horse Society are not eligible to compete. Geldings must be registered in the Shire Horse Society Non-Breeding Register and must be pure bred e.g. not out of Grade B mares, and parentage verified.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the Shire Horse Society panel.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

### ***RIDDEN HEAVY HORSE OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to purebred mares, geldings and stallions 4 years old and over **that are registered in, and comply with showing requirements of the Shire, Clydesdale, Suffolk or British Percheron Society Stud Books, at the time of qualification.** Partbreds are not eligible to compete.

All Riders and Owners must be Members of either the Shire Horse Society, The Clydesdale Horse Society, The Suffolk Horse Society or British Percheron Horse Society.

**These classes will be run in accordance with the general rules as set out in this Rule book.**

Additional Rules:

- i) Qualification will not pass below 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- ii) Horses will be required to gallop at the final.
- iii) Riders of stallions must have obtained their 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- iv) Rider turnout should be traditional, with evening attire required for championships as appropriate.**
- v) Horses must be entered in the name and ownership they are registered.
- vi) Horses should be turned out in a traditional manner as per their breed society rules, **tail plaits including wool are optional**, flights/standings are not permitted.



- vii) For Clydesdale horses, they are to hold a Clydesdale Horse Society passport with full pedigree details, stallions and mares are to appear in the main section of the Clydesdale Horse stud book. Geldings are to have appeared as produce of their dam if they have not been issued with a Clydesdale Horse Society Passport.
- viii) **Horse Turnout: Plain noseband and browband with snaffle or traditional double or pelham bit. No bitless bridles, running gags or Liverpool bits are permitted.**
- ix) **If shod, only normal shaped shoes that do not cover the frog are permissible. Shoes must be fitted to the circumference of the foot and give maximum support at the heels.**

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Ride judges may be selected from the BSHA full judge's panel or one of the appropriate Heavy Horse Breed Panels (Suffolk Horse Society, Clydesdale Horse Society, The Shire Horse Society and The British Percheron Horse Society).
- ii) Conformation judge to be selected from those on one or more of the appropriate Heavy Horse Breed Panels (Suffolk Horse Society, Clydesdale Horse Society, The Shire Horse Society and The British Percheron Horse Society).
- iii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.
- iv) At the final marks must be awarded in the following way. Qualifiers should be marked in the following way:

Ride	50 maximum
Breed type and conformation	50 maximum

In the case of equality, the horse with the highest conformation mark will be deemed the winner. If there still be equality at this point, then the judges' decision will be final.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

***DRIVEN HEAVY HORSE OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP***

This competition is open to mares and geldings that are Heavy Horses of draught type, four years old and over. Breeds to include, but not limited to Shires, Clydesdale, Percheron, Suffolk Punch and Belgian Draught.

All Drivers and Owners must be Members of either the Shire Horse Society, The Clydesdale Horse Society, The Suffolk Horse Society, British Percheron Horse Society or The Showing Register.

Single Horse to be driven in a two wheeled show cart, Drivers to have obtained their 18th birthday by the 1st of January in the current year.

This class will run in accordance with the Horse of the Year Show Rulebook.

Additional Rules:

- i) Qualification will not pass below 5th place.
- ii) Horses must be entered in the name and ownership they are registered.



- iii) To be driven in chrome harness and peak collars or English harness to suit the cart, brass harness and short top collars allowed.
- iv) Carts must only be two wheeled and single driven.
- v) This is not a turnout class; aprons, spares and lamps are not required.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judge to be selected from those on one or more of the appropriate Heavy Horse Breed Panels (Suffolk Horse Society, Clydesdale Horse Society, The Shire Horse Society and The British Percheron Horse Society) or to be approved by Grandstand.
- ii) Judges may only judge two qualifiers during the current year and these two appointments must be a minimum of 100 miles apart

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

***HARNESS HORSE OR PONY OF THE YEAR***

This competition is open to horses/ponies, four years old to be driven in a Traditional Style vehicle.

This class will be run in accordance with the British Driving Society guidelines, which for the avoidance of doubt will be considered rules for Horse of the Year Show and its qualifiers.

Additional Rules:

- i) Exhibitors, Owners and Drivers must be members of the British Driving Society.
- ii) Qualification will not pass below 6<sup>th</sup> place.
- iii) Drivers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible, competent adult.
- iv) The combination of horse, vehicle and driver that qualify must be the same at the Horse of the Year Show Championship.
- v) Only turnouts consisting of two or less horses are eligible for qualification.

Judging Guidelines:

- i) Judges must be selected from the BDS Judging Panel.
- ii) Judges may only judge one qualifier during the current year.

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

**G) SUPREME IN HAND HORSE/PONY OF THE YEAR**

***SUPREME IN HAND HORSE/PONY OF THE YEAR***

The objective of the competition is to find the supreme light horse or pony in-hand champion of the year, irrespective of breed or type.

The Champion of each light horse/pony section will be eligible to compete, provided it has not already won a qualifying round in 2026.

If the Champion has already qualified or is ineligible, then the reserve champion of that section may come forward, provided it has not already qualified and is eligible. If both Champion and Reserve Champion have already qualified or are ineligible then the section will not be represented in this qualifying round.



All classes are open to Stallions, Yearlings, 2 year olds, 3 year olds, broodmares and barren mares only. Broodmares must be with foal at foot or a relevant certificate of pregnancy. Mares which have not yet foaled or that have lost their foals are eligible to enter with a relevant certificate of pregnancy for the following year. Foal champions are not eligible.

Each section represented must consist of a minimum of two classes and a Championship. There will be no direct entry into Supreme In-hand Championship Qualifier, all animals must be a section champion.

In the event of a horse/pony having been awarded more than one section Championship at this show, that horse/pony will represent both/all sections and the qualification will not pass down to the Reserve in the second and subsequent sections.

Judges must not judge a Supreme In Hand Championship qualifier **in both the current and proceeding year.**

Qualification will be verified by the Horse of the Year Show office.

This rulebook is the copyright of:

GRANDSTAND MEDIA LIMITED  
ORGANISERS OF HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW  
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ

*No part may be reproduced without their permission*

