



AUSTRALIAN
SMALL EQUINE
ASSOCIATION INC

Show Rule Book



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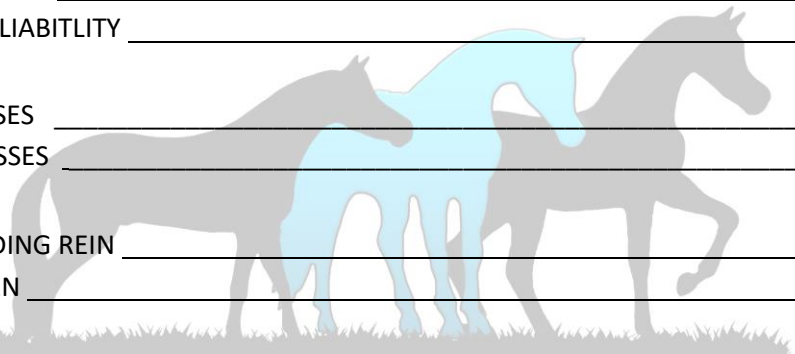
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The Australian Small Equine Association Inc was founded in December 2023 with the aim and dedication of setting a standard to promote sportsmanship in showing and judging our Small Equines at all shows conducted by ASEA Inc.

All Show Officials, Members, Competitors, Judges and Stewards should be provided with the means of access to this Handbook to make themselves familiar with all sections of the Show Rules, in relation to officiating and participating in shows run under ASEA Inc, as a condition of entry.

ASEA Inc Show Rule Guidelines

SECTION 1. GENERAL

1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Acceptance of the rules;

- a) All members of ASEA Inc shall accept and be bound by these rules.
- b) Making an entry for any event constitutes implicit acceptance of these rules.
- c) Competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with these rules. It remains the full responsibility of the **Owner/ Handler** to comply with the equipment rules as outlined.
- d) Breaches of these rules may entail elimination unless other penalties are stipulated. These Rules must be read in conjunction with ASEA Inc Constitution. In cases of conflict of interpretation between the provisions of the Rules of the Constitution of ASEA Inc, the Constitution will take precedence
- e) Should any issue arise with regards to the interpretation of any Show Rule it shall be referred to the ASEA Inc Committee for determination. The ASEA Inc Committee will determine what interpretation is to be given and this decision will be binding and no appeal or protest will be permitted

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR SHOWING

1. ASEA Inc. Shows can run either as open or closed shows. Conditions of Entries advertised with each Show Program and Entry form are final and take precedence.
 - a) All horses must be registered with either ASEA Inc. or an approved ASEA recognised Equine Association/Society if accepted. Closed shows will only accept ASEA Inc. registered horses and full Members. (No Day Memberships available)
 - b) Owners/Members and all Handlers must be current financial Member of ASEA Inc. Closed shows may also only accept ASEA Inc. Registered Horses (Competitors must read Conditions of Entries attached to advertised Show Entries).
 - c) Any person who has been refused Membership and/or privileges to ASEA Inc. are not permitted to enter and attend any ASEA Inc. event (including Open Shows/Events) unless National Committee advise otherwise in writing).
 - d) Horses may only compete in classes for the section of which they meet the height for age requirements, with the exception of miniature horse, small horse, little horse and ponies who may only compete in their own breed sections, unless otherwise advertised by Committee.
 - e) All entries must be made by the owner/lessee of the horses or ponies. The owner/lessee entering the horse must be a financial member of the organisation with which the exhibit is registered and proof of such is to be supplied with entries.
 - f) To enter an ASEA Inc show, the owner/ lessee must use the complete name and registration number of the horse or pony as it is shown on the registration certificate.
 - g) Pending registration for other societies will NOT be accepted unless otherwise approved in writing by the Organiser of the show/event. Current papers must be produced before entry closing date or entries will NOT be accepted.
2. STALLIONS
 - a) Stallions two years and over (unless breeding has occurred earlier, then a Certificate of Soundness must be provided/on file with Society at that time), with two visible testicles and have a Certificate of Soundness on file with ASEA Inc. If the Certificate of Soundness is on file with another ASEA Inc approved recognised Association/Society, a copy of this will need to be returned to office with the original ASEA Inc. registration certificate for upgrading and noted on new Registration Certificate (all COS are to be held on file with ASEA Inc and are recorded on Registration Certificates as on file).
 - b) Stallions may be bitted but the bit used may be nylon, rubber or vulcanite.

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3. FOAL / WEANLING CLASSES

Weanlings and Foals must be led in a suitable strong show halter, with either a captured chain or leather strap. All foals must be a minimum of four (4) months old, from their actual birth date, to be allowed to compete at an ASEA Inc. show.

4. BROODMARES

Broodmare classes may be offered at ASEA Inc shows at the discretion of the Committee. To be eligible to show as a broodmare, the mare must be in foal, have a foal at foot or have foaled in the last season. Proof must be produced on request. Mares may be entered in either the open mare or broodmare class – not both.

5. OPEN HALTER CLASSES

Open halter classes at ASEA Inc Shows are open to all horses that meet the height for age requirements for miniature, small horse, little horse & show ponies. Horses or ponies that have their own breed sections are not eligible to compete in open halter classes unless otherwise specified by the committee.

6. DRUGS, BANNED SUBSTANCES, AIDS & IRRITANTS

The use of stimulants, performance enhancing substances (including but not limited to any and all drugs that have an anabolic/steroidal effect), depressants or any drug affecting the showing of a horse/pony in a halter or performance event is strictly forbidden. Penalties for positive evidence of such drugging will include barring of the exhibitor, owner or trainer from both the event (including removal of any awards) at which the horse/pony returned a positive test result and future ASEA Inc events for a period to be determined by the committee of management;

- a) It is a condition of entry to all ASEA Inc events that swabbing may take place. Exhibitors must present horses or ponies for testing within 30 minutes of the request from the Show Committee. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of all awards and cancellation of any other entries for all horses entered by that exhibitor at the same show. Further disciplinary action may be taken for a positive swab result.
- b) Any horse showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than normal shall be disqualified
- c) No horse having had surgery for purely cosmetic purposes will be permitted to show. Similarly, no horse having had surgery to correct faults will be permitted to show
- d) No pads, wedges, leg chains, nor weighted ankle boots are permitted

3. PRESENTATION FOR SHOWING

1. Presentation of the horse for showing at any ASEA Inc. event will be at the discretion of the owner, but the horse must be shown to its best possible visual and health advantage at all times, in order to positively promote the Breed. Permissible methods of presentation for showing at an ASEA Inc. event are:

2. CLIPPING AND TRIMMING

Horses which are shown with ears and tactile hairs unclipped and with a full mane shall be judged on their merits and are not to be penalised. Removal of facial tactile hairs and trimming of ears and mane is optional but eyelashes should not be removed. Horses that are shown in full coat are not to be penalised.

- a) The horses coat can be presented In a natural condition; or
 - i. Clipped with the new coat established; or
 - ii. Freshly clipped, as long as in all of the above, the horse is neat, healthy and well presented.

3. MANES & TAILS

Manes and tails can be shown platted or free flowing in all events. The mane and tail may be trimmed and thinned to improve the appearance. The use of false adornments in the tail, mane, and/or forelock is permitted unless specified in classes relating to manes and tails by the show organiser

4. HOOVES

Hooves may be unshod/shod. Standard shoes are allowed in all events however, official height recording will be recorded irrespective of whether the horse is shod or unshod.

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5. COLOUR ENHANCE

Colour Enhance products are not to be used to alter/change the horses natural body colour (e.g. bay to black), but can be used to enhance the horses natural body colour. The Horses colours/markings will be recorded on ASEA Inc.

6. MARKINGS

No markings (spots, blazes, stars etc) are to be altered or attempted to be hidden or changed in any way (by way of surgery, dye or any other manner). Markings will be recorded on Registration of Certificates and used to help identify horses at ASEA INC events.

4. HEIGHTS FOR AGE REQUIREMENTS

1. All horses, ponies and American Shetlands are to be measured from their 1st August Birth Date and are to be measured in accordance with Section 15 the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

2. Miniature Horse - Horses 34" and under 38"

This Horse category must meet the following height requirements:

(all measurements are taken from last hair of mane)

- a) Weanlings (horses under 12 months) must not exceed 30"
- b) Yearlings (horses over 12m and under 24m) must not exceed 32"
- c) Two Year Old (horses over 24m and under 36m) must not exceed 33"
- d) Mature horses (horses 36m and over) must not exceed 34"

3. Small Horse - Horses over 34" and up to 38"

This Horse category must meet the following height requirements:

(all measurements are taken from last hair of mane)

- a) Weanlings (horses under 12 months) must not exceed 34"
- b) Yearlings (horses over 12m and under 24m must not exceed 36"
- c) Two Year Olds (horses over 24m and under 36m) must not exceed 37"
- d) Mature horses (horses 36m and over) must not exceed 38"

4. Little Horse - Horses over 38" and up to 42"

This Horse category must meet the following height requirements:

(all measurements are taken from last hair of mane)

- a) Weanlings (horses under 12 months) must not exceed 38"
- b) Yearlings (horses over 12m and under 24m) must not exceed 40"
- c) Two Year Olds (horses over 24m and under 36m) must not exceed 41"
- d) Mature horses (horses 36m and over) must not exceed 42"

5. Miniature Horse and Pony Height for Age Requirements

The Australian Miniature Pony shall be measured at the highest point of the wither. The pony must stand naturally with all four hoofs standing squarely on the ground.

ASEA Inc shall recognise two height divisions

- a) Miniature Pony Height Requirements ALL AGES - Australian Miniature Pony must not exceed 87cms irrespective of age Any Pony upon their four-year-old (Adult) measurement that records a height of 85cms or more is to be re-measured at age six years and before reaching age seven years
- b) Pony Height Requirements ALL AGES - Appendix Ponies are over 87cm not exceeding 91.5cm in height irrespective of age. Any Appendix Pony upon their four-year-old (Adult) measurement that records a height of 89.5cms or more is to be re-measured at age six years and before reaching age seven years

6. The show age of the horse is determined as at August 1st

** Explanation Note: A horse born on the 1/1/2010 for showing purposes only turns one (1) year old on the 1/8/2010 (recognised worldwide as the horses birthday) and would have to show in a yearling class if shown after

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that date, even though it is physically only 8 months of age. The horse/pony is therefore also to be measured as at the 1st August birth date.

7. Horses holding Permanent Registration and aged five (5) years or older may hold a Permanent Height Recording card which will be valid for the life of the horse from the date of measurement.
 - a) Any horse holding Height Recording Card does not need to be measured at ASEA Inc shows (unless otherwise advertised by Committee) provided that the Height Recording Card is presented at each show. The exception to this rule, is in the case of a show, offering "Entries on the day"
 - i. Where all horses who are entering on the day of the show (i.e.: after the advertised closing date for entries, therefore are not pre-entered) must be measured regardless of whether they hold a Height Recording Card or not. (Pre-entered horses may still use their Height Recording Card if they are simply adding or entering another class.)
8. Height Recording Cards can only be issued by an Official Measurer (someone nominated by National Committee for that purpose) and witnessed by an independent member. The Official Measurer and the independent Member must verify and sign the Height Recording Card. The horse must be measured in accordance with ASEA Inc height for age rules.
9. All horses regardless of those holding a Permanent Height Card may be required to be measured at any ASEA Inc event if advised by Committee.

5. SHOW PROCEDURES

1. MANAGEMENT

State Representatives, with the assistance of the National Committee of Management shall have jurisdiction over preparing and mailing/publishing online, all entry forms and catalogues and insurance declarations. State Representatives / Show Organisers shall have the authority to enforce all rules referring to the Show or Contest and may disqualify any horse or Exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging for cruelty or abuse of a horse, or because of unsportsmanlike or aggressive behaviour. Management shall at all times make every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, the Exhibitors, the Spectators and the Officials throughout the Show.

2. CLOSING DATE OF ENTRIES

Where closing dates apply, entries must be either submitted online via the ASEA Inc. website (if available), emailed to the advertised email address or mailed to the advertised postal address on or before the closing date. If entries are postmarked with the closing date they will be accepted.

3. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees as set out in the Schedule of Classes or on the Entry Form will apply. Refund of Entry Fees will not be made after closing date of entries. If extenuating circumstances exist then Members may apply to Committee for consideration of a refund.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF EXHIBITS

All horses must be able to be identified by either their brands or microchip number in accordance with the Certificate of Registration issued by the Society. Registration papers will be checked regarding markings as change of coat colour or adding/deleting white markings is prohibited and may result in disqualification.

** Coat colour refers to the colour of the horse in natural unclipped condition.

5. EXHIBIT NUMBERS

Where entries have been allocated an Exhibit number, the Exhibit or handler/driver must display the correct Exhibit number at all times in each event.

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6. AUTHORITY OF SHOW COMMITTEE

Where entries are small it is acceptable to combine classes. This is usually done on a basis of height for age. This would not be acceptable for National or State Class Shows where these classes must be offered. The Committee reserves the right to:

- a) Reject or cancel any entry at any time
- b) Prohibit the participation, any person or Exhibit in any event or class for which it is entered
- c) Cancel, combine or divide any event or class
- d) Alter the time at which any class or event is to take place
- e) Transfer a horse from any class to any other class
- f) Act upon any report of cruelty to any horse on the Show ground or any other location within the premises of the event. (Clause b above may be invoked).

7. STIRRING

Horses are not to be excessively stirred-up. Horses must remain calm in the marshalling area with a maximum of one handler/driver and one groom until they enter the ring at a walk or a trot.

- a) No devices, artificial gadgets or loud noises shall be used to excite waiting horses. This rule also applies to other persons on the outside of the ring or marshalling area.
- b) Horses who are excessively excited may be asked to leave the ring or marshalling area and will not be judged.
- c) Persons failing to obey these rules may have their Exhibit disqualified from the class.
- d) Handlers are not to incite stallions to challenge by facing them up to each other or crowding them. The facing up of stallions is strictly prohibited.
- e) CRUELTY OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

8. DRUG TESTING

Random drug testing of Exhibits may be carried out at any ASEA Inc show. If a positive test is returned penalties will apply.

9. MATURE HORSE MEASUREMENT:

Where measuring is applicable at an ASEA Inc. Show, a mature horse will be allowed two measurements. After either the first or second measurement of the horse and the owner does not agree with that measurement they have the option of either

- a) accepting the final measurement (and the horses papers updated to suit the new measurement) and show the horse in the applicable class or
- b) withdraw the horse from the show (and retain their original papers).

***If the horse measures over by more than one inch (1") then the papers will be updated regardless. ***

10. ENTRIES ON THE DAY

If Entries on the Day are advertised to be accepted at any "open" show:

- a) They shall be at the advertised "Entry on the Day" entry fee, and only allowed and accepted between the advertised times for such entries.
- b) All horses, ASEA Inc registered or otherwise entering on the day, MUST present a copy of both sides of their registration papers or they shall not be permitted to enter
- c) No "Registration Pending" will be accepted on the day.
- d) For non-ASEA-registered horses, a copy of both sides of the Registration Certificate is to be submitted with completed Entry Forms and correct payment, including any additional insurance fees, if applicable. If no registration papers are included, the entries will not be processed.
- e) For entries on the day, ASEA Inc. Membership Cards must be made available when requested by a State or National Committee Member.

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11. REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS

An Exhibit must:

- a) Stand still for the Judge to inspect it.
- b) Be able to perform the workout as directed. Outside interference such as a loose horse galloping through the ring or other unforeseen circumstances which dramatically affects the competitor's chances to demonstrate their ability may mean that the Judge can allow a second chance to work out.
- c) Not show any evidence of cruelty or distress from whip marks, bleeding or drug abuse. Not exhibit any lameness in the opinion of the Judge. The Exhibitor should be given the option of withdrawing from the class before judging is completed.

12. TIED PLACINGS

A tied placing will not be awarded (exceptions may be made in Youth Handler classes). Where two (2) horses are deemed to be equal, preference shall be given to the smaller horse.

13. PROTESTS

Competitors or Exhibitors in the disputed Class or any Show Official may lodge a protest. The protest must be lodged within THIRTY (30) MINUTES of the completion of the class. Protests must be accompanied by \$50.00 cash, refundable if the protest is upheld.

- a) Contestants have the right of protest, through the Ring Steward or Show Organiser to any Obstacle, Marker or Surface which in the opinion of 50% or more of the contestants in the class, could endanger the horse or handler. Such a protest may be adjudicated by the Judge and/or Show Organiser.
- b) A Judge's decision, representing his or her individual preference is final and no protest can be lodged unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Rules.
- c) To make a formal complaint against a Judge, such complaint must be in writing, signed by the complainant, containing specific facts giving rise to the complaint and be received by the Secretary of the Australian Small Equine Association Inc within 14 days from the date of the occurrence. In serious cases the complainant may be required to attend a hearing conducted by the Association in regards to the matter, at a place directed by the National Committee of Management.
- d) Problems arising at a Show involving questions not specifically covered by the Rules will be adjudicated by the Show Committee. Any suggestions or queries involving Rules contained in the Rule Book should be addressed to the Secretary of the Association.
- e) Protests on horse's heights will not be accepted at that show for which they are officially measured. Horses may be re-measured twice. The last measurement will be deemed the final height. No Protest will be accepted in regards to a horse's height once an official measurement has been completed and recorded at an ASEA Inc show.

6. CLASS PROCEDURE

1. JUDGE'S DECISION

The Judge's decision at an Official Show is final and is under no obligation to award 1st, 2nd or 3rd place (any placing) if he/she considers such Exhibit not up to standard. Once a class has been judged it shall not be re-judged.

2. JUDGING OF GRAND CHAMPION

In each section of the Programme all class winners are eligible to compete for Grand Champion. Each Exhibit which has qualified for the Grand Championship class must be given an individual workout.

3. SUPREME OF SHOW

Eligible Grand Champions within their respective division will compete for the applicable Supreme of Show.

4. SUPREME OF SUPREMES

Eligible Supreme of Show winners will compete for the applicable Supreme of Supreme Awards when offered at an ASEA Inc Show. Where multiple Judges are selecting a Supreme of Supreme, a Card System or written system should be employed.

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5. SHOWING MORE THAN ONE HORSE

Any handler/driver who has shown two or more horses which have qualified to compete in a Grand Championship class may handle/drive each of these Exhibits in their individual workout in the Grand Championship class. This does not apply to the National Show.

6. ADDITIONAL HANDLER

An additional handler/driver must be in attendance to parade the second or subsequent Exhibits for the remainder of the Grand Championship class (if it applies, the Non-Professional status of the Additional Handler will not be affected by assisting in this situation).

7. SAME JUDGE

All classes, including Grand Champion and Supreme Awards, in one division shall be judged by the same Judge/s unless under extenuating circumstances.

7. THE JUDGE

1. The qualities required in any person invited to act as a Judge are:

- a) Honesty, Sincerity, Integrity, Fairness, Unbiased attitude.
- b) Thorough knowledge of The Standard of Excellence and Show Rules for the ASEA INC. The relevant Rules and the Standard of Excellence of each different category will be sent to the Judge prior to the show of each category
- c) Able to examine each horse quickly and reasonably.
- d) Able to compare horses against each other and place them accordingly Good judging depends upon the correct observation of the overall presentation and work of the Exhibits presented and the selection of the best horses as set out in the conditions of the class.

2. A Judge serves three interests - the Judge's own conscience, the Exhibitors and the Spectators. The Judge should make it clear to the audience that the best horse wins. Judges should, at all times try to be positive and not just penalise Exhibits. Judges shall be 18 years of age or over. In all classes the future of the breed is in the hands of the Judge who has the responsibility of upholding the Standard of the Breed

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

a) Personal:

- i. The Judge should have signed a current Judges Agreement with the ASEA INC prior to judging at the show they have been contracted for
- ii. Judges should be correctly and neatly attired to suit the occasion. A Judge may remove a jacket in excessive heat and give permission to Exhibitors to remove their jackets
- iii. Whilst judging classes the Judge strictly prohibited from smoking, drinking alcohol or taking any substance that may impair the ability of the Judge to judge effectively
- iv. The use of mobile phones whilst judging is strictly prohibited
- v. The Judge should report on the day of Show to the Show Organiser or Secretary in good time before the commencement of Classes
- vi. If after accepting a judging commitment a Judge is unable to meet such a commitment, the Judge shall communicate this to the Show Organiser immediately to allow the Association maximum time in which to seek a replacement. It must be accepted by Show Organiser that occasionally, such exceptional circumstances may arise
- vii. Judges must not discuss any Exhibit's faults with Stewards or other competitors. The exception to this rule is the Judge who has accepted the role of mentor to a Judge candidate but the utmost discretion must be observed in order to avoid offending Exhibitors and may only be done once Exhibitors have left the ring.

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- viii. A Judge shall not be an Exhibitor, Steward or the Show Organiser at any horse show at which he/she is officiating, except in extenuating circumstances or for special classes, as in National Shows over a number of days and with different sections.
 - ix. The Judge shall not advertise, solicit or canvas his/her judging services.
- b) Professional:
- i. The Judge will evaluate Miniature and Small Horse Exhibits at shows in accordance with the Standard of Excellence published by the Association
 - ii. The Judge shall adjudicate each class at a show in accordance with the rules of the ASEA Inc Rule Book
 - iii. The Judge has the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which in their opinion, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or which may be in their opinion, inhumane or unsafe. In such cases the horse is excused from the Ring to adjust or remove offending gear.
 - iv. At no time should a Judge interfere with a competitor's tack or gear in the ring
 - v. A Judge is the Official Guest of the Show Committee prior to the Show. A Judge shall not during the period of a Show at which he/she is judging, be the house guest of a person who is Exhibiting at the Show in the Horse section
 - vi. A Judge may not judge a section of a horse show which the Judge has judged in the past three (3) months
 - vii. A Judge shall not adjudicate any class in which any of his/her client or clients or members of his/her family are competing, unless in the case of the client/pupil the relationship has been terminated at least three months prior to the show. Nor should he/she judge a horse that he/she has sold or leased to a client within the last three months
 - viii. A Judge shall not adjudicate any class in which an immediate member of his/her family or any of his/her horses is competing. He/she shall not adjudicate any class in which his/her trainer is competing. The onus is on the Competitor to withdraw from the class
 - ix. The Judges name will be published along with a brief resume on the website after the close of entries for State and National Shows
- c) To Exhibitors:
- i. A Judge should never refer to a competitor by name. Exhibitors are to be called in by number or colour.
 - ii. A Judge should not converse with Exhibitors. If an Exhibitor requires information it must be relayed through the Steward.
 - iii. An Exhibitor may speak to a Judge after having arranged a suitable appointment through the Ring Steward or other Show Official. The Judge should receive an Exhibitor in a courteous and polite manner but always in the presence of a Steward or Show Official.
 - iv. Judges should not discuss the sale, purchase or lease of any horse with an Exhibitor before or during a Show at which they are officiating.
 - v. A Judge shall not visit the Exhibits' stables with owner/s or Exhibitors nor inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show or contest prior to the judging.
 - vi. A Judge shall not fraternise with any owner or Exhibitor prior to or during the show.

8. RING STEWARD

1. The Ring Steward is responsible for hosting the Judge on the day.
 - a) The Ring Steward must have in mind that he/she has been selected to help the Judge, not advise him/her.
 - b) He/she shall carefully refrain from discussing or seeming to discuss the horses or Exhibitors with the Judge.
 - c) Stewards shall not take part, or seem to take part, in any of the judging.
 - d) When the Ring Steward is not actively engaged in any of his/her duties, he/she shall place him/herself in such a position as not to interfere with the judging and the view of the spectators.

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- e) In all Shows it is necessary that a competent Ring Steward be used. One who can control the conduct of the horses and Exhibitors in the ring or arena, who can keep the classes moving smoothly and who is well versed in the Rules of the Association.
2. RESPONSIBILITIES:
- a) The Ring Steward has the responsibility of checking entries for eligibility and handlers/drivers and horses for proper attire, equipment and appointments. Horses should be checked for whip marks and other signs of abuse. With the exception of the National Show where it shall be the responsibility of the Marshalling Steward.
- b) By assembling the class promptly, the Steward will be able to keep the programme on schedule and eliminate long delays. With the exception of the National Show where it shall be the responsibility of the Marshalling Steward.
- c) The Ring Steward will notify the Judge when all horses are present for each class.
- d) The Ring Steward has charge of the activity in the ring or arena. He/she should act as mediator between the Judge and the Exhibitors. The Judge should request the Steward to move and place horses as he/she advises.
- e) At the Judge's request, the Ring Steward also has the authority to remove unsportsmanlike Exhibitors from the ring, and/or to ask an Exhibitor to remove his/her horse for the safety of other horses or spectators.
- f) The Ring Steward should see that the Judge places his/her signature on each class sheet together with that of the Steward and that the sheets for the entire show are handed to the Show Organiser.
- g) If due to labour shortage in small Shows it is found to be necessary for exhibitors to assist, they should not do so until they have finished exhibiting.

9. EXHIBITORS

1. ONE HORSE PER HANDLER/DRIVER

Only one horse per handler/driver per class is permitted.

2. SUITABLE ATTIRE

- a) Exhibitors must be suitably attired for the occasion. Dress will be dictated by the standard of the show.
- b) Exhibitors must be aware that both handlers and horses are on display and must present themselves in a neat and appropriate manner.
- c) Suitable attire includes: quality dress slacks or trousers. Plain short or long sleeve blouse. Ties, hats and jackets or coats are to be worn at the discretion of the Exhibitor. For formal occasions, long sleeved buttoned down shirt/blouse with slacks or skirt are appropriate. Suitable footwear is always necessary, only boots and closed toe shoes are allowed.
- d) Any item of dress that in the opinion of the Judge or Steward may detract from the purpose of the event, shall result in the possible exclusion of the Exhibit from that event.
- e) No advertising matter shall appear on any items of dress or equipment that leads to Stud, Farm or personal identification in the ring.
- f) The Judges or Show Official's decision on what comprises as correct attire shall be final.

3. CONDUCT

- a) Competitors shall at all times behave in a proper and respectful manner to Judges, Show Officials and their fellow competitors. Any Exhibitor whose conduct is considered to be ill-mannered, aggressive or unsportsmanlike during the judging of an event may be issued a warning and subsequently dismissed from the class or disqualified from the show.
- b) Competitors at all times must abide by the ASEA Inc Code of Ethics, Bullying and Conduct Policy or risk being disqualified and ejected from the show/event, effective immediately.
- c) Once the Judging has commenced, the horse shall not be led or driven in or out of the Ring without the permission of the Judge.
- d) Competitors will refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or taking any substance which impairs their ability to control the Exhibit.

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e) The use of mobile phones or any other electronic device whilst competing in the ring is prohibited.

4. ELIGIBILITY

- a) No Exhibitor may compete in any class being adjudicated by a Judge who is not permitted to judge the Exhibit/Exhibitor as stipulated in Rule 7 for Judges. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to ensure eligibility for a class. Where any ineligibility to compete may occur, the Exhibitor (not the Judge) should withdraw from the event.
- b) No Exhibitors may show before a Judge who has received, or is contracted to receive a remuneration for the sale, purchase, or lease of any horse, from the date of signing the Lease, to or from, or for the account of said person within a period of three months prior to the show
- c) No Exhibitor may show before a Judge who boards, rides or trains (for horse show purposes) any horse under the said persons ownership or lease, within a period of three months prior to the show. (Stud fees excluded).
- d) No Exhibitor may show before a Judge who has remunerated said person for the board, training or handling of any horse for show purposes within a period of three months prior to the show.
- e) No Exhibitor who has been given tuition by a Judge may show within 3 months before the Judge or conversely no Judge may adjudicate his tutor until a 3-month period has elapsed. The rule is for individual tuition only. Training days and clinics organised on a group basis by other than the Judge, are exempt.

5. COLT/STALLIONS:

- a) No stallion or colt is to be handled or driven by a person under 18 years of age in Harness Events.
- b) No stallion or colt is permitted to be shown in any Junior Handler Class or Youth event.
- c) Handlers must not incite stallions to challenge by facing them up to each other or crowding them.
- d) NO youth may ride a colt or stallion in Youth events.
- e) Parents or guardians of youth exhibitors may request special permission from the Show Committee for a youth aged 12 years and over to show a colt/stallion. The application must be made at least 7 days prior to the show and must include details of experience and justification for the dispensation must be outlined. The Committee will assess each application on its merit
- f) Youth exhibitors may handle a current season's foal or weanling colt in halter classes (not permitted in any Youth events).
- g) Youth aged 12 years and over may handle a yearling colt in halter classes.
- h) In all cases, Show Committee / Judges may revoke permission if the safety of the horse or pony, handler or other exhibitors is deemed to be compromised.

10. ABUSE OF HORSES

1. Any incident wherever on the show ground observed by an Official of the Show which is considered to reflect abuse or a cruel practice to an Exhibit by an Exhibitor, handler, or driver shall be reported to the Committee and may result in immediate disqualification of it or him/her from all events in which the Exhibit, Exhibitor, handler, or driver is entered, as well as the forfeiting of all prize monies gained.

This includes but is not limited to:

- a) Tethering horses to floats overnight
- b) Stabling horses overnight in horse float single bays designed/suitable for transport only
- c) Failing to provide sufficient bedding in stables
- d) Failing to provide sufficient water and/ or feed for the duration of the stay. Stabling and feeding must be compatible with good horse management and must not compromise welfare of the horse. Any practices that could cause physical or mental suffering, in or out of competition, will not be tolerated.
- e) Failing to sufficiently rug a clipped horse
- f) Health status: No horse showing symptoms of disease, lameness, significant ailments or pre-existing clinical conditions should compete or continue to compete if its welfare would be compromised. Veterinary advice must

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be sought whenever there is any doubt. Any horses exhibiting the above may be disqualified from showing for the event.

- g) Extreme weather — Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the horse may be compromised.

2. WHIPS, CHAINS AND BITS

- a) These are acceptable aids in the showing of horses in In-Hand and Harness Classes. Where indiscriminate and excessive use of these aids occurs, a verbal warning will be given. Disqualification will result if Exhibits display evidence of whip abuse or bleeding from bits or if Exhibitors continue with the excessive use of aids after the initial verbal warning was given. This should be checked by the Steward prior to judging.

- b) All chains must be captured

3. WHIP LENGTH

- a) In harness classes whips should not exceed past the shoulder of the horse.

Any person or person(s) found guilty of animal abuse or neglect charges in a court of law is not permitted to participate in ASEA Inc events.

11. BIO-SECURITY

- 1. Bio-security measures WILL be enforced. Anyone found to be breaching these measures will be asked to leave the venue.

- a) These measures include but are not limited to: routine use of safe systems of work for all contact with horses, horse blood and body fluids and associated equipment. This includes washing hands regularly, maintaining standards of cleanliness and stable hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting equipment that has been in contact with horses' body fluids.
- b) If an Owner has a sick horse, it must be isolated from other horses, people and animals (e.g. remove companion animals to another area) until veterinary advice received.
- c) Clean and disinfect all gear exposed to any body fluids from horses before using it on another horse. This includes halters, lead ropes and twitches.
- d) When cleaning contaminated equipment from a sick horse, wear gloves, cover any cuts or grazes and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
- e) Practise good bio-security and do not travel with, work on or take sick horses to other properties or equestrian events.
- f) Do not allow visiting practitioners (e.g. farriers/dentists) to work on sick horses.
- g) Seek veterinary advice before bringing any sick horse onto your property.
- h) ASEA Inc Officials reserves the right to exclude from competition any horse showing any symptoms of illness (i.e. nasal discharge etc.)
- i) Judges and Stewards will enforce bio-security in the ring including the use of hand sanitisers before each class.

12. INSURANCE

The Association will provide adequate Insurance coverage for any liability arising from incidents which could occur at Horse Shows for financial members. In addition to the coverage provided by the Association for its members, the Committee require that all independent contractors, including concessionaries, be required to provide evidence that they have Worker's Compensation Insurance and Public Liability in force, for the duration of the event.

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13. FORCE MAJERUE

1. ASEA Inc shall not be liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, shows and events to the extent such delay or failure results from a force majeure occurrence.
2. A force majeure occurrence is defined as any occurrence arising from causes beyond the reasonable control of ASEA Inc and which delays or prevents performance by ASEA Inc otherwise required by this agreement, including but not limited to any
 - a) Breakage or accident to equipment, machinery or facilities
 - b) Any strikes, lock-outs or other labour difficulties
 - c) Statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders, or rules issued by governmental authorities
 - d) Judicial decrees or orders
 - e) acts of God
 - f) Animal diseases and/or quarantines
 - g) Wars, riots or insurrections
 - h) Civil disobediences, public demonstrations or sabotage
 - i) Fires, floods, explosions or inclement weather
 - j) Inability to obtain necessary labour, materials, supplies, utilities or transportation
 - k) Depressions, recessions or other economic downturns
 - l) Embargoes or energy shortages or
 - m) Other causes beyond ASEA Inc's reasonable control.

14. RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The Australian Small Equine Association Inc. venue management and Show Management team will not be responsible for any accident that may occur to or caused by any horse or pony exhibited at the show or event, or for any article of any kind or nature that may be lost, destroyed, stolen or damaged. Each exhibitor will be liable for injury that may be occasioned to any person, animal or damage to property while on the grounds by any horse or pony owned, exhibited by, or in his/her custody/control and shall indemnify and hold harmless the Australian Small Equine Association Inc.

SECTION 2. HALTER

15. SHOW CLASSES

1. In Stallion and Mare classes emphasis shall be placed upon type, conformation, movement, substance and quality, and suitability as a breeding animal.
 - a) Exhibits will be judged in accordance with the Standard of Excellence as published by the Association.
 - b) Exhibits are to be shown in hand at the walk and trot.
 - c) The Walk should be a definite four beat gait that is brisk, true, and flat footed with good reach.
 - d) The Trot should be a definite two-beat diagonal gait that is balanced and free moving.
 - e) Both the Walk and the Trot should be straight and true.

2. GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

- a) All halter classes are to be judged on overall quality and conformation of exhibits which includes: balance and proportion, sound conformation, free forward movement, bone and substance, temperament and tractability.
- b) A suitable strong show halter or bridle should be used.
- c) The Judge shall make an individual examination and check the action of all horses brought into a halter class.

3. PROCEDURE FOR JUDGING

The normal procedure used in judging Halter classes is as follows:

- a) Horses enter at the Walk or Trot. They will circle the ring at the walk as directed by the Judge or Steward.
- b) The horses will be lined up on one side of the ring with sufficient space between them for safety.

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- c) Consideration should be given in placing the line-up in such a way as to give each horse the best possible workout in the defined area and so as not to obstruct the view of the spectators.

16. HALTER CLASSES

1. PROGENY CLASSES

- a) Progeny Classes shall have at least two horses, entered under the name of the Sire or Dam, one handler per animal.
- b) Emphasis shall be placed on reproductive likeness, uniform quality and similarity of breed characteristics and conformation.
- c) "Sire's Progeny Group": Group of two or three males and/or females, the progeny of one sire.
- d) The progeny only are to be shown, not necessarily bred or owned by the owner of the sire. Entries to be in the name of the Sire only.
- e) "Dam's Progeny Group": Group of two males and/or females, the progeny of one dam.
- f) The progeny only are to be shown, not necessarily bred or owned by the owner of the dam. Entries to be in the name of the Dam only.
- g) "Sire and Progeny": Sire and one or more progeny males and/or females are to be shown.
- h) Not to be necessarily bred or owned by the owner of the stallion. Entries to be in the name of the Sire only.

2. CLASSIC CLASSES

- a) "CLASSIC HEAD" This class is judging the head only
- b) Exhibits can enter the Ring at a walk and line up ready for inspection.
- c) Sufficient room should be left between horses for the Judge to view the heads from all angles, or horses may be called forward individually for inspection.
- d) "CLASSIC TROT" Exhibits are to enter the ring at the trot showing lengthening strides and are judged between two definite markers.
- e) Only the trot is judged and must be judged in accordance with the Standard of Excellence. Deviations in action may be penalised according to their severity.

3. LEARNER CLASSES

- a) Competitors may only compete in a maximum of 8 Championship Shows as a Learner Handler
- b) If you win Highpoint Learner, you are no longer a Learner Handler
- c) If you win six Champions as a Learner you are no longer a Learner Handler.

4. NON-PROFESSIONAL/OWNER CLASSES

- a) In Non-Professional Owner classes, horses are to be led by their recorded owners or owned or leased by the Non-Professional's immediate family
- b) Owner means the person who is noted in the records of the ASEA Inc. as the Owner or Lessee of the Horse/Pony.
- c) A Non-Professional is one who regardless of his/her equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, does not act as a professional and has been approved by ASEA Inc as a Non-Professional.
- d) Professionals are not eligible to compete in Non-Professional classes and is someone who,
 - i. Has accepted remuneration directly or indirectly for training, schooling, driving, halter preparation and showing in halter
 - ii. Has conducted clinics or seminars or given instruction in showing or training for which remuneration has been received.
 - iii. Has performed the above list of activities for which another person in his/her family or corporation, which a member of his/her family controls, will receive remuneration directly or indirectly.
 - iv. Has performed such activities while accepting remuneration directly or indirectly for employment in another capacity for an employer or member of the said employer's family, who owns, boards or trains the involved horse.

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- v. Has driven or exhibited in halter at horse shows any horse he/she or a member of his/her family accepts remuneration directly or indirectly for boarding or training.
 - vi. Has driven or exhibited in halter at horse shows any horse he/she or a member of his/her family accepts remuneration directly or indirectly for boarding or training.
- e) The following activities shall not affect the Non-Professional status of a person who is otherwise qualified:
- i. In emergencies/unforeseen circumstances such as helping another Exhibitor when they may have two or more horses out for a Grand Champion/Supreme or if they sustain an injury and are unable to compete.
 - ii. The writing of books pertaining to horses
 - iii. Accepting remuneration for judging or stewarding
 - iv. Speaking at workshops, clinics, seminars or youth training days in a voluntary capacity where they do not accept a fee for their services
 - v. Receiving prize money or remuneration from the sale of horse related products
 - vi. Holding the occupation of farrier or veterinarian
 - vii. Owning or operating a saddlery, stud or breeding farm or boarding stables
- f) Explanations (Non-Professional Owner Rules)
- i. The above Non-Professional rules mean that anyone who is employed by a training establishment to do duties other than breaking, training, schooling, driving, showing or preparing halter horses is eligible to be a Non-Professional
 - ii. Spouses and immediate family of a trainer are also able to be a Non-Professional as long as they are not involved with the breaking, training, schooling or showing of any of the horses the trainer is being paid to work.
5. TINY TOT CLASSES
- a) ELIGIBILITY: Tiny Tot Classes are for Youth 9yrs & under.
 - b) Tiny Tot classes are encouraged to be held at ASEA Inc shows which is to help give the younger Youth (9yrs & under) the opportunity to experience a variety of classes on offer while competing against youth at the same level and/or experience.
6. AGE CLASSES
- a) The Child Handler age is of the 1st August for Show Seasons to conform with High Point and not disadvantage any children e.g. (if the child is 5yrs as at the 1st August and starts competing in the 5yrs & under classes and they turn 6yrs old in December, they would continue to show in the 5yrs & under class for the duration of the season so they are not disadvantaged with regards to Hi Points).
 - b) When Tiny Tot Classes are offered at an ASEA Inc Show the following split is recommended but not mandatory (additional Tiny Tot classes may be offered if enough numbers to support):
 - i. Tiny Tot (5yrs & Under). 5yrs & Under Tiny Tot's must be accompanied by adult in the show ring.
 - ii. Tiny Tot (6-9yrs). May be accompanied by an adult in the show ring and will not be penalized.
 - iii. Tiny Tot classes are run in accordance with Youth Classes (refer below).
7. YOUTH CLASSES
- a) PURPOSE: That upon completion of the classes, the Judge, Competitors and Spectators will be able to identify Youth graded according to their competency to control and exhibit a horse in hand.
 - b) ELIGIBILITY: Any person under the age of 18 years at the show entry closing date who, in the opinion of the parents can safely lead and control (i.e. handle) a horse.
 - c) The competition could be divided into age groups. The winner of each age group may then compete for a special award e.g. Grand Champion.
 - d) Only Mares and Geldings are to be used for all youth classes

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8. DRESS

Competitors shall be dressed suitably and neatly attired in accordance with dress codes for showing.

9. HORSES

- a) Only mares and geldings are to be used in the interests of safety for all.
- b) Horses are to be shown according to the Rules of presentation of the ASEA Inc. Bridles and Led-In
- c) Halters are equally acceptable, however, should a horse appear unruly, the Judge may direct the Steward to request that gear be changed or adjusted.

10. COACHING OR VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS

- a) No coaching, verbal instructions or signals are to be given from the sideline. The exception to this is the adult who is in the show ring with the child (aged 9yrs & under).
- b) It is the Steward's responsibility to warn any offending parties that their behaviour is unacceptable.

11. JUDGING GUIDELINES

- a) The Judge selects the most competent handler who is neatly and correctly dressed (according to the Rules) and who shows the horse to have fluid paces and good manners i.e. the horse gives an animated performance but is submissive to the handler throughout and performs the correct workout.
- b) Ribbons/Sashes/Rosettes are placed on the handler not the horse.

12. SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES

The Committee may choose to add Special Needs classes. These classes are open to any exhibitor with a disability. On a case by case basis, slight modification to the show rules may be permitted to promote an inclusive and safe environment.

SECTION 3. RIDDEN

17. YOUTH LEAD REIN

1. Leading Rein Pony_ Horse or Pony 12.2hh and under, rider 3 yrs and under 8 yrs. The rider must not carry a cane. Spurs are not permitted
 - a) The pony must be suitable for a small beginner as this class caters for younger children starting to ride. Temperament and manners are paramount. A tiny child is not expected to be very much more than a passenger enjoying the ride, whilst the older child is expected to be a little more competent.
 - b) The pony should be willing, well mannered, obedient and relaxed. The Lead Rein Pony is expected to be a quality riding type pony with all the characteristics of a good riding animal. It should have an established and very settled head carriage with soft regular paces that inspire confidence in its young rider.
 - c) All Riders must wear a helmet to the Australian Safety Standard
 - d) Horses must be at least 3 years actual age
 - e) The pony must be shown in a snaffle bridle and bitted with a leather lead rein, held by the handler in the left hand, attached to the cavesson noseband. A narrow strap may be attached to the front of the small saddle for the child to hold if necessary.
 - f) Leading Rein Handler to be 16 yrs and over the handler may carry a cane not to exceed 40cms; the rider must have neither whip nor spurs. The handler should be able to hold the lead rein in the left hand about a metre from the pony with the right hand free to assist the child if necessary. The rider should be encouraged to rise at the trot.
 - g) Leading rein pony should possess a kind eye, good length of rein, be clean through the gullet and have a reasonably narrow wither so that the child can sit in comfort. It should have a good sloping shoulder, be short in the back and have correct hind legs.
 - h) The paces should be straight, true, rhythmical, and easy with a good length of stride at walk and trot. The action should be active but not so that the rider is bounced out of the saddle. In the class, the pony should walk at a

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medium pace and never over trot causing loss of balance. The head carriage should be correct in a rounded frame and still. The pony should halt without fuss and always stand quietly.

- i) Manners must be impeccable. Must be quiet enough to carry a small child. Must only ever walk or trot and never run past handler.
1. Presentation - Manes and Tails. Manes are optional to be free flowing or plaited; tails can be free, plaited or pulled. False Tails are permitted
2. Coat and Hooves - Coat clean, with excess hair removed. Hooves oiled or blacked
3. Saddlery - Saddle (including girth and stirrups) and Saddlecloth Saddle should be of good quality and be supple and clean with sound stitching. Saddle should be small (14" or less)
 - a) Optional numnah or saddle pad.
 - b) Girth either white webbing or leather.
 - c) Safety stirrups (Peacock Irons, clogs & stirrup cages) are permitted.
 - d) Bridle (including bits and browbands) must be in a snaffle bridle (jointed or straight bar) Bridle should be the same colour as the saddle, supple, of good quality leather. Tasteful brow band to complement pony's head size, colour and outfits worn by rider and handler, e.g., matching hair ribbons etc.
5. Judging - To be judged on manners and obedience.
 - a) Workout should be a simple work out and show some transitions to show suitability as lead rein pony. Pony is led from back of cavesson with leather lead. Rider should be able to rise to the trot a little and assist with turning.
 - b) The handler must hold the lead in the left hand and carry a cane in the right hand.
 - c) The handler is not to control the pony unless the rider requires assistance the rider will be judged on their basic position in the saddle, hand, leg, feet in stirrups, seat and back position.
 - d) The class can be worked at a walk or trot both directions of the ring.
 - e) In the line-up, the judge may ask riders to back their horses.
 - f) If the judge asks the rider to back the horse in the line-up, the adult should not aid the rider.

For the safety of the horse and rider, the combined weight of the rider and saddlery should not be more than 20% of the horse's total weight

18. OPEN RIDDEN CLASSES

1. The rider may carry a cane not to exceed 40cm. Spurs are not permitted
 - a) The pony must be suitable for a small beginner as this class caters for younger children starting to ride.
 - b) Temperament and manners are paramount. A tiny child is not expected to be very much more than a passenger enjoying the ride, whilst the older child is expected to be a little more competent.
 - c) The pony should be willing, well mannered, obedient and relaxed.
 - d) The Lead Rein Pony is expected to be a quality riding type pony with all the characteristics of a good riding animal.
 - e) It should have an established and very settled head carriage with soft regular paces that inspire confidence in its young rider.
 - f) All Riders must wear a helmet to the Australian Safety Standard
 - g) Horses must be at least 3 years actual age
 - h) The pony must be shown in a snaffle bridle and bitted with a leather lead rein, held by the handler in the left hand, attached to the cavesson noseband. A narrow strap may be attached to the front of the small saddle for the child to hold if necessary
2. Open Ridden Pony should possess a kind eye, good length of rein, be clean through the gullet and have a reasonably narrow wither so that the child can sit in comfort. It should have a good sloping shoulder, be short in the back and have correct hind legs.

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- a) The paces should be straight, true, rhythmical, and easy with a good length of stride at walk and trot. The action should be active but not so that the rider is bounced out of the saddle. In the class, the pony should walk at a medium pace and never over trot causing loss of balance. The head carriage should be correct in a rounded frame and still. The pony should halt without fuss and always stand quietly.
- b) Manners must be impeccable. They must be quiet enough to carry a small child.
- c) The horse must only ever walk or trot and never run past handler.
3. Presentation - Manes and Tails. Manes are optional to be free flowing or plaited; tails can be free, plaited or pulled. False Tails are permitted
4. Coat and Hooves - Coat clean, with excess hair removed. Hooves oiled or blacked
5. Saddlery - Saddle (including girth and stirrups) and Saddlecloth Saddle should be of good quality and be supple and clean with sound stitching. Saddle should be small (14" or less)
 - a) Optional numnah or saddle pad.
 - b) Girth either white webbing or leather.
 - c) Safety stirrups (Peacock Irons, clogs & stirrup cages) are permitted.
 - d) Bridle (including bits and brow-bands) must be in a snaffle bridle (jointed or straight bar) Bridle should be the same colour as the saddle, supple, of good quality leather. Tasteful brow band to complement pony's head size, colour and outfits worn by rider and handler, e.g., matching hair ribbons etc.
6. Ponies are to be judged on manners and obedience.
 - a) Workout should be a simple work out and show some transitions to show suitability as lead rein pony.
 - b) Pony is led from back of cavesson with leather lead. Rider should be able to rise to the trot a little and assist with turning.
 - c) The handler must hold the lead in the left hand and carry a cane in the right hand.
 - d) The handler is not to control the pony unless the rider requires assistance the rider will be judged on their basic position in the saddle, hand, leg, feet in stirrups, seat and back position.
 - e) The class can be worked at a walk or trot both directions of the ring.
 - f) In the line-up, the judge may ask riders to back their horses. If the judge asks the rider to back the horse in the line-up, the adult should not aid the rider.
 - g) All youth (under 18) are NOT permitted to participate in any ridden classes with a stallion/colt

For the safety of the rider and horse/pony, the combined weight of the rider and saddlery should not be more than 20% of the horse's weight.

SECTION 4. HARNESS

19. HARNESS AND DRIVING CLASSES

As adopted by the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. plus those supplemented by ASEA Inc. as outlined in this guide. The rulebook of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. may be obtained directly from the Society Website: acds.org.au

1. GENERAL RULES

- a) Horses must be sound.
- b) Correctly fitting breaching is compulsory in all classes except where "Tilbury" or "French" tugs are used.
- c) Vehicles fitted with open tugs must have breaching.
- d) An appropriate whip shall be carried at all times, the maximum length of which can reach the horses shoulder.
- e) Running martingales and over-checks are not permitted.
- f) ACDS accepted driving bits are compulsory for all classes.
- g) Blinkers are compulsory for all classes. Boot, wraps and earplugs are prohibited.
- h) Change of vehicle for classes in the same division is prohibited.
- i) No Horse (under 3 years actual age) can compete in harness

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- j) All youth (under 18) are NOT permitted to participate in any harness classes with a stallion/colt
2. SAFETY RULES
- a) All persons competing in driving competitions must have safety foremost in their minds
- b) A horse must never be left unattended while hitched to or being put into a vehicle.
- c) Competent adult co-drivers are recommended for all Youth classes.
- d) Passengers must enter the vehicle after the driver is seated with the reins in hand and passengers must dismount first.
- e) The arena layout shall have safe entry and exit gates and a collection area of appropriate width
- f) If the number of entries exceeds safety for the size of the arena, the class will be divided by the Show Organiser into sections from which the best horses per section will return for a final drive off.
- g) No horse is to be hitched to a cart and driven for its first time at a show.
3. RULES AND MANNERS
- a) A ten (10) minute maximum warm up period must be offered in the ring before the commencement of judging.
- b) One adjustment of equipment by an attendant is allowed in the ring before judging commences.
- c) The Judge may excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle or equipment, or any unruly horse.
- d) Headers are optional in all classes excluding Youth where they are compulsory.
- e) Horses should enter the ring clockwise at a trot.
- f) After entering the ring drivers should take an inside track until all other competitors have entered.
- g) Driver must be on the rail ie. the outer side of the ring, as safely as possible.
- h) Drivers must drive at a safe distance behind the horse and vehicle in front.
- i) Driving between another competitor and the judge is deemed bad manners and should be avoided whenever possible.
- j) Passing is permitted by the inside or crossing the ring into space to ease congestion, but the driver must return to the rail immediately.
- k) A driver is permitted to talk quietly to their horse, but shouting and whistling is not permitted.
- l) At the completion of judging and on instruction BY the steward, the drivers should exit the ring in order of placing's after a circuit of the ring, in an orderly manner

20. LONG REIN

The collected movement of a horse in long reins enables a judge to assess the horse's ability to display correct, fluent movement at the walk and trot, as well as the responsiveness to the driver's instructions with a pleasant and obedient temperament.

1. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
- a) The workout would require the execution of a number of different movements at a walk and a trot designed to indicate the degree of co-operation between horse and handler.
- b) At a walk, or when trotting in a straight line, the handler should stay behind the exhibit or slightly to one side.
- c) When trotting in a circle the handler should either stand still in the centre or walk in a small circle following the horse.
- d) Although preference will be given to exhibits that can demonstrate collected movements members are encouraged to enter even if their exhibits have not yet learnt to collect.
2. EXCLUSIONS
- a) No horse (under 2 years actual age) can compete in long rein.
3. JUDGES GUIDELINES
- a) Credit will be given to a horse that displays correct and fluent movement along with a pleasant and obedient temperament.

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- b) Credit will be given for the quality of movement and the fluency of transitions in the workout. Penalties will be incurred for resistance whether subtle or obvious eg, rearing, bucking, kicking, biting, open mouth etc.
- c) A horse that collects but shows some small resistance should be placed higher than a horse that does not collect at all.
- d) Presentation may be taken into account but this is considered to be of lesser importance.

4. EQUIPMENT

- a) Any equipment not specifically mentioned is prohibited from use.
- b) The use of prohibited equipment will lead to an automatic disqualification either before, during, or after judging.

5. COMPULSORY EQUIPMENT

- a) Bits – egg butt, loose ring, tom thumb, snaffle (jointed or straight)
- b) Reins –length to suit made of any safe material
- c) Harness Saddle or Standard Roller with D rings (padded or plain)

6. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- a) Blinkers
- b) Whips
- c) Cavesson Noseband
- d) Saddle Cloth
- e) Leg Wraps
- f) Crupper (recommended)

7. THE HALT

At the halt the horse should be motionless, yet attentive, ready to respond promptly to the drivers aids. The horse should stand square, with weight distributed evenly on all four legs, fore and hind legs side by side.

8. THE REIN BACK

The aids for the rein back (or backing up) in harness are the verbal command “back” and a light pull on the reins. In a correct rein back, the horse engages its hindquarters and takes clearly defined backward steps. To do this well, the horse must first be on the bit and at least “thinking forward” at the halt. If the horse is inattentive at the halt and not on the bit, he is likely to back crooked and get above the bit.

9. THE WALK

The free forward walk and collected walk should have hind foot stepping in prints of front hoof

10. THE TROT

The horse needs to be forward moving, straight and with even knee action. The horse requires plenty of hind leg action using hocks to complement front movement and not just appearing to be running behind

SECTION 5. LIBERTY

21. LIBERTY EVENT

The objective of this class is to allow a horse to demonstrate its natural beauty as a Judge assesses the horse’s style, grace, animation, gaits and presence as it performs to music.

1. EXCLUSIONS

- a) Horses under 1 year (actual age) are not eligible to compete

2. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

- a) Horses are released in an enclosed arena to perform to a selected piece of music.
- b) The time of the liberty is 90 Seconds and the Exhibitor must catch the horse within 2 minutes of the music stopping or the horse is disqualified.
- c) Only one Exhibitor (who will wear the number) and one Assistant will be allowed in the arena with the horse.
- d) The Exhibitor and their Assistant are permitted to use whips and shaker bottles to encourage movement.

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- e) The Assistant may also assist the Exhibitor in catching the horse but if the Assistant touches the horse with aids or hands at any time the horse will be disqualified.
- f) The Exhibitor may not touch the horse with aids or hands as this will result in instant disqualification.
- g) The Exhibitor is allowed to use their hands to catch and halter the horse after the music has stopped.
- h) All horses must be safely haltered before leaving the arena.

3. ARENA SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- a) Liberty may only be offered at shows where the facilities include an enclosed arena of suitable size and where the conditions would not be hazardous to the Exhibitor and/or horse.
- b) The surface must be safe, and it must be even and not have any holes, surface water or mud present
- c) The use of electric fencing, wire, tape or rope to mark the arena is prohibited.
- d) The walls of the arena should be a minimum height of 42 inches and of suitable construction so as to safely contain a miniature horse. Entry and exit gates must also be suitably constructed to ensure the arena is completely enclosed at all times during the performance. It is recommended that the gates be blacked out.
- e) The arena must be cleared. For example, items such as jumps and poles must be removed. It is recommended that the arena be blacked out.
- f) Show management may at any time cancel the Liberty event if they deem the conditions unsafe for Exhibitors and their horses, such as slippery conditions.

4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) The Announcer or Show Official shall publicly announce 10 minutes prior to the commencement of liberty that:
- b) No outside assistance allowed, silence must be observed whilst the Exhibitor is attempting to catch the horse.
- c) Applause is permitted only after the horse has been haltered at the conclusion of its performance.
- d) The Announcer or Show Official shall repeat the above statement immediately prior to the commencement of the first performance

5. JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

- a) Horses will be judged beginning when the halter is removed by the Handler and until caught by the Handler.
- b) In assessing each horse, the Judge will consider the following criteria:
 - i. Style & Grace – 30%
 - ii. Animation & Presence – 30%
 - iii. Gaits – 20%
 - iv. Music & Suitability – 10%
 - v. Catch – 10%

6. DISQUALIFICATION

- a) If the Assistant touches the horse with their hands or any aid they are using.
- b) If the Handler touches the horse with their hands or any aid they are using (except during catch)
- c) Failure to catch and halter the horse within 2 minutes of music stopping
- d) Any assistance from outside the arena unless the Judge feels that the outside action was taken in an attempt to cause the handler's horse to be disqualified or if the Judge believes the outside assistance was completely unintentional
- e) The assistant catching the horse
- f) Inappropriate dress by the Handler or Assistant
- g) The use of plastic bags is not permitted

7. EQUIPMENT

- a) Music is required to be provided by the handler via Mp3, mobile phone, usb or cd devices
- b) The handler must set the device to the exact place for the Announcer/ Show Organiser to play.
- c) The device must be clearly labelled with handler's name, the horses number and the number of the required song.

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- d) No reruns will be permitted for incorrect settings, or mislabelled devices.
 - e) It is recommended that the handler only have the song that they wish to use on the device.
 - f) Whips are optional.
 - g) Shaker bottles and other suitable, presentable aids designed to encourage movement are allowed, except plastic bags
 - h) Horses are prohibited from wearing boots and bandages and should not be shod.
8. DRESS
- a) It is mandatory for the handler to wear appropriate attire. Management may bar any person from entering the ring if not suitably attired.
 - b) Handlers and assistants should present themselves and turn out their horse in a manner according to the dress codes

