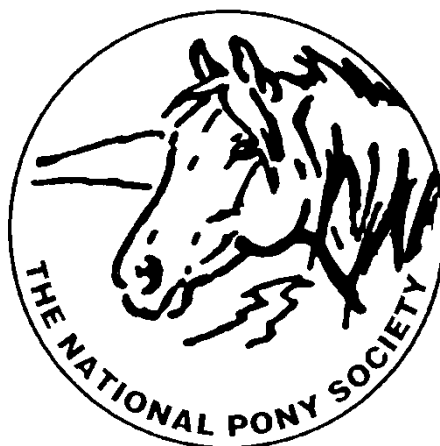
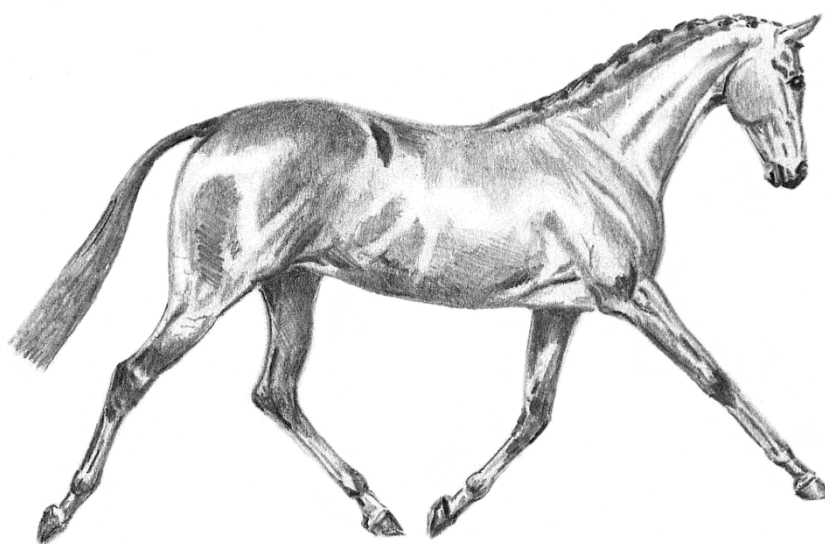


# THE NATIONAL PONY SOCIETY



**2026**

## **RULEBOOK**



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The National Pony Society shall hereby be referred to in these rules as “NPS” or the “Society”. The council of the Society shall be referred to as “NPS Council” or “Council”.

All members of the Society shall be governed by the rules set out in this rule book (“Rule Book”). Such rules shall hereby be referred to as the “NPS Rules” or “Rules”. Unless otherwise stated or where the context is clear, any uncapitalised uses of such terms are to carry the same meaning.

All Exhibitors when entering NPS Shows must abide by the Rules as set out in the NPS Rule Book.

THE NPS Council reserves the right to amend or change the rules during the lifetime of the current Rule Book.

Exhibitors should refer to the NPS website for any updates or changes to the Rules.

It is the duty of every Member to assist the officers of the NPS in their investigations of breaches of the NPS Rules and an unreasonable failure or refusal to do so will in itself constitute a breach of the NPS Rules.

Application for membership of the NPS, and acceptance thereof, shall be deemed to constitute an agreement on the part of the member to abide by:

- The charitable objects of the NPS
- NPS Rules and any procedures stipulated from time to time.
- NPS Memorandum & Articles
- NPS Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures, as set out below.

Any member, who acts to the detriment of NPS, brings NPS into disrepute or breaches NPS Rules, any regulations and/or procedures, shall be subject to the NPS Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures as set out in section D.

**All members/breeders will be treated equally and without prejudice.**

## **A. RULES FOR SHOWING**

All NPS competitions must be run under the NPS Rules defined in this Rules Book.

Microchipping of all horses is a legal requirement in England from October 2020 and Scotland and Wales from 2021 and therefore a compulsory requirement for all horses/ponies (excluding foals at foot) competing in NPS affiliated classes from that date. Microchip numbers must be submitted to the relevant Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) via the relevant registration forms. **It is also a legal requirement to inform the PIO of any change of ownership or death of the registered pony within 30 days. A record of any loan/lease must be lodged with the relevant PIO.**

Equine Influenza vaccinations are a compulsory minimum requirement for all horses/ponies competing in NPS affiliated classes. Any horse/pony commencing a new primary course from 01/01/2024 must be vaccinated as follows: the first 2 vaccinations 21 – 60 days apart, a third booster between 100-180 days, and an annual booster vaccination within 365 days thereafter. Any horse/pony that received the primary course prior to 1/1/24 are permitted to have an interval of up to 92 days between the first and second vaccination of the primary course and an interval of between 150-215 days for the first booster. No horse should enter competitions within 7 days of an EI vaccination. Foals should commence vaccinations at 6 months old. This Rule may be subject to change following guidance from the FEI/BEF and any changes will be notified via the NPS website. The current FEI ruling is for a six monthly booster as opposed to annual; therefore it is recommended that you check with shows that fall under FEI regulation before entering e.g. Windsor, Hickstead, HOYS etc. It is also strongly advised that all animals are vaccinated against tetanus in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

At shows where the schedule states that a class is 'To be judged under the rules of the NPS' the class will be judged according to the rules in this Rule Book.

Please be aware that in relation to Horse of the Year Show qualifying classes affiliated to the NPS, there are separate Horse of the Year Show rules which take precedence over the Rules in this book, and it is both the Judges and Exhibitors responsibility to make themselves aware by downloading a copy of the Horse of the Year Show Rules from [www.hoys.co.uk](http://www.hoys.co.uk)

The General Rules in sections A, B, C and D apply to all classes run under NPS Rules as well as all qualifying rounds and finals of the NPS competitions defined in sections F – Q of the Rule Book. Rules covering Horse of the Year qualifiers will appear in a separate rule book available from Horse of the Year Show.

No Member or Non Member shall behave in an offensive, abusive or unpleasant manner to any person or any horse/pony at any show, event, venue or workplace associated with the NPS, whether in person, over the telephone, in writing or via social media. Members will be held responsible for the actions of any non-members who are Family Members or who are employed by them or who are assisting, supporting, representing or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or conduct of such person which would be a breach of the Rules were they a Member shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Member concerned. Family Members in this context will include any person who is in the reasonable opinion of the NPS a member of the Member's family in the widest sense.

No person **shall compromise the welfare of a horse/pony in their care at any time** whether misuse/excessive use of a whip, bit, spurs, or any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever. **The full Code of Practice can be downloaded from the NPS website Education & Welfare section.**  
**[www.nationalponysociety.com/codeofpractice](http://www.nationalponysociety.com/codeofpractice)**

It is the duty of every Member to assist the officers of the NPS in their investigations of breaches of the Rules and an unreasonable failure or refusal to do so will in itself constitute a breach of the Rules.

Application for membership of the NPS, and acceptance thereof, shall be deemed to constitute an agreement on the part of the member to abide by:

- The charitable objects of the NPS

- NPS general rules and procedures
- NPS Memorandum & Articles
- NPS complaints and disciplinary procedures

Any member, who acts to the detriment of NPS, brings the Society into disrepute or breaches NPS Rules, regulations or procedures shall be subject to the NPS Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures defined in section D.

Any Owner, Rider, Producer (Member or Non-Member) or Horse/Pony that is banned or suspended for any period of time as a result of any disciplinary action taken by any member body of The Showing Council, may not compete in NPS Affiliated classes, or apply for membership, at the discretion of the NPS Council. Any action taken by the NPS against any Owner, Rider, Producer or Horse/Pony may be shared with the other member bodies of The Showing Council. A full list of all Showing Council member bodies can be found at <http://theshowingcouncil.co.uk/member-bodies.asp>.

### **1. Rules relating to NPS Membership**

#### **1.1 General principles:**

- For NPS competitions and qualifying rounds run under NPS Rules it is the membership status of the owner of the horse/pony that is relevant.
- The definition of an affiliated class for the purposes of eligibility for the NPS national championship qualifiers is a class affiliated to the NPS, BSPS or UKPH
- For Dressage and Event Pony Finals, Performance, Qualifying or Life membership is required to enter the finals.
- The owner of a horse/pony must be over 18 years of age.
- NPS membership runs on an annual basis from January to December.
- The NPS does not require an annual showing fee per horse/pony and ponies do not have to be added to an annual showing register. However, ponies must hold equine passports and for most NPS competitions they need to be registered in one of the following stud books as appropriate to the classes in which they are entered:
  - the Pure Bred section of an M&M Breed Society Stud Book
  - the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB.
  - the General Stud Book
  - the Arab Horse Society Stud Book
  - the Anglo Arab Stud Book
- Membership **may** be suspended immediately if
  - Cheques made payable to the NPS, an NPS Area or an NPS Affiliated show are not honoured by the bank
  - If there are any outstanding monies owing to the NPS, an NPS Area or an NPS Affiliated show
  - If any trophies belonging to the NPS or an NPS Area are not returned by the requested date.A surcharge of £10 will be charged if replacement cheques have to be processed, along with all relevant Bank charges incurred by the NPS, NPS Area or NPS Affiliated Show.
- At the discretion of the NPS trophies may be withheld if previous trophies have been returned damaged or late.

#### **1.2 Membership Categories:**

Qualifying membership is required for all finals and some qualifying rounds except where otherwise stated. Life members have Qualifying membership. Some particular situations where Qualifying membership is required are highlighted in the following sections.

### **1.3 Proof of membership:**

Proof of Membership will be determined by the NPS Secretariat.

### **1.4 Riders:**

Riders do not need to be members of the NPS except when riding at the final of the M&M Working Hunter Pony Championship (RIHS) at Hickstead. Both junior and adult riders must be full members of the NPS to ride in this final.

### **1.5 Qualifying rounds:**

- a) Qualifying rounds for most NPS Showing competitions are open to ponies owned by NPS members and non-members but only ponies owned by adult NPS members (Qualifying or Life members) are eligible to qualify for the final of the competition. For ridden plaited classes, British Isles classes, Winter qualifiers and dressage the owner does not need to be a member to qualify but will need a Qualifying or Life membership to enter the final. For Ottergayle Hack and Riding Horse In Hand membership is not required for qualification or entry into the final.
- b) Criteria for specific competitions are included in the rules for the competitions (see sections E to P of this Rules Book). There are some significant exceptions which are highlighted here:
  - M&M Working Hunter Pony (RIHS) Championship. To enter any qualifying round for this competition the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS.
  - Horse of the Year Show Competitions. For the Mountain and Moorland classes both the *OWNER* and *RIDER* need to be a Qualifying Member of NPS, BSPS, The Showing Register or UKPH or a Native Breed Society. For the plaited classes the *OWNER* and *RIDER* need to be a Qualifying Member of NPS, BSPS, The Showing Register or UKPH and the *PONY* registered with either the NPS, BSPS, UKPH or The Showing Register.
  - Silver Medal Rosette Championships can be entered by NPS members and non-members but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying members can receive the Silver Medal and/or the qualification. (See section A 1.3).
  - At Breed Shows owners do not have to be NPS members to enter qualifying rounds or to qualify for the finals. This includes Silver Medal Rosette Championships, but owners must become Qualifying or Life members to enter the finals.
  - For ridden plaited pony competitions (see section I) owners do not have to be NPS members to enter qualifying rounds or to qualify for the finals but must become Qualifying members to enter the finals.
  - For British Isles Area competitions (see section M) owners do not have to be NPS members to enter qualifying rounds or to qualify for the finals but must become Qualifying members to enter the finals.
  - For the NPS Winter competitions (see section N) owners do not have to be NPS members to enter qualifying rounds or to qualify for the finals but must become Qualifying members to enter the finals.

### **1.6 Qualification Cards/Rosettes**

#### **Winter Qualification**

- a) Ponies qualifying at NPS Winter competitions go forward to the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- b) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to qualify but the Owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the Final.



- c) The three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- d) Silver Medal Rosettes will be awarded on the day of the Show following the production of the owner of the horse/pony's current Qualifying/Life Membership card in the ring. Please see Section 1.5 B

**Summer Qualification**

- e) Horses/Ponies qualifying at NPS Summer competitions go forward to the NPS Summer Championship show. The exception is those horses/ponies qualifying at shows held after the cut off date for the Summer Championship show; these horses/ponies go forward to the final at the following year's Summer Championship show. The cut off date is published on the NPS website and is normally two or three weeks before the NPS Summer Championship show.
- f) The highest placed horse/pony in each qualifying round will qualify; qualification will go no lower than third place with the exception of shows organised by the NPS Main Office where qualification may be passed down to fifth place. A horse/pony may only qualify once. It is the responsibility of the owner / producer to ensure that the rider / handler knows whether their horse/pony has already qualified and whether or not they are entitled to take the qualification. The Owner of the horse/pony's membership card must be carried by the rider / handler and produced immediately when requested in the ring to receive the majority of qualifications, subject to 1.6.g below. The exceptions to this are listed on their individual class page in this book.
- g) Results will be verified by the NPS Office. The NPS reserves the right to pass the qualification to the next eligible member, qualification to pass no lower than third place.
- h) If membership has been renewed within 14 days prior to the date of the show and the owner's membership card has not yet been received in the post, the competitor may show their official renewal conformation letter either as a hard copy or on their mobile phone to the judge in the ring.
- i) Silver Medal Rosettes will be awarded on the day of the Show following the production of the owner of the horse/pony's current Qualifying/Life Membership card in the ring. Please see Section 1.5 B

**1.7 Finals of NPS competitions at the NPS Shows:**

Qualifying or Life membership is required for entry in all finals at the NPS Spring Festival and the NPS Summer Championship show, including the Silver Medal Rosette Championship finals. This includes finalists from the Breed Shows and from the winter competitions. No membership is required for the Ottergayle Hack & Riding Horse In Hand Final. Qualifying and Life membership also entitles members to reduced entry fees for classes at these shows.

**1.8 Finals of NPS competitions held at other shows:**

- At the M&M Working Hunter Pony Championship (RIHS) final at Hickstead the rider must also be an NPS Qualifying or Life member.
- At the NPS Arena Eventing Challenge final the owner must be an NPS Performance, Qualifying or Life member.
- At the NPS Supreme Dressage Championships either the owner or rider must be an NPS Performance, Junior, Qualifying or Life member.

**2. Rules relating to Horses/Ponies**

**2.1 General principles:**

- a) The age of the horse/pony is calculated from January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of its birth.
- b) All ridden horses/ponies must be four years old or over. Mares with a living foal born during the current season are not eligible to compete in ridden classes.
- c) All horses/ponies must hold a valid equine passport in the name of the legal owner.

- d) All horses/ponies, four years old or over, come under the jurisdiction of the Joint Measurement Board.
- e) **Sensory hairs should not be trimmed, clipped, shaved or removed other than for veterinary purposes. These are defined as the hard hairs located on the horse's muzzle and around the eyes. Trimming of ear hair should be minimised.**
- f) **Blood on the flanks, mouth or nose during competition may lead to elimination. Blood or abrasions in other areas of the body shall be individually considered. Each situation to be individually considered by a suitably experienced person appointed by the Show Organiser.**
- g) No Ridden pony to be shown on a leading rein except those entered in Leading Rein classes.
- h) If a Judge decides that a rider is not suitably mounted, they should take appropriate action and place down the line, or mark down accordingly.
- i) The judge may require that a pony which constitutes a danger leaves the ring; the judge's decision is final and will be supported by the Society, provided the judge has acted in accordance with this rulebook.
- j) Winnings in the NPS Winter competitions will not debar novice ponies from entering NPS M&M Novice Ridden competitions in the following summer.
- k) Any outside assistance to a competitor, whether solicited or not, whether inside or outside the ring, which in the opinion of the Judge might influence the competitor's performance, incurs elimination at the Judges discretion.

## **2.2 Mountain and Moorland ponies.**

- a) All ponies exhibited in NPS M&M classes must be registered in the main body of the Pure Bred M&M Stud Book of their respective breeds at the time of entry and entered in the name and ownership under which they are currently registered. Part Breds are not eligible and ponies registered in the X section are excluded. The showing rules of the British Native Pony Breed Societies, as recognised by the National Pony Society, will take precedence in all cases.
- b) All ponies exhibited in NPS M&M classes are to be trimmed and turned out within their Breed Society specification. Manes must not be plaited and tails not braided. No false hair or hair dyeing allowed. Ponies are restricted to the height limits laid down by their appropriate Breed Societies (see d) below) and may be measured at the judge's discretion. **PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK TO BREED SOCIETY SHOWING RULES <https://www.nationalponysociety.com/nps-judges/>**
- c) Large Breeds must not exceed 148cms, with the exception of Dales and Welsh Section D Cobs for which the respective Breed Society definition includes larger height ponies.
- d) 

<b>CONNEMARA</b>	12.2hh - 14.2hh (128cm – 148cm)
<b>DALES</b>	Preferred height range 14hh - 14.2hh (142.2cm – 148cm) (Ponies above and below this range to be placed at the discretion of the judges)
<b>DARTMOOR</b>	Not exceeding 12.2hh (127cm)
<b>EXMOOR</b>	Preferred height range Stallions and geldings 11.3hh - 12.3hh (119.4cm – 129.5cm) Mares 11.2hh - 12.2hh (116.8cm – 127cm)
<b>FELL</b>	Not exceeding 14hh (142.2cm)
<b>HIGHLAND</b>	Not exceeding 14.2hh (148cm)
<b>NEW FOREST</b>	Not exceeding 14.2hh (148cm)
<b>SHETLAND</b>	Not exceeding 42 inches (107cm)
<b>WELSH A</b>	Not exceeding 12hh (121.9 cm)

<b>WELSH B</b>	Not exceeding 13.2hh (137.2 cm)
<b>WELSH C</b>	Not exceeding 13.2hh (137.2 cm)
<b>WELSH D</b>	Exceeding 13.2hh (137.2 cm) no upper height limit

### **2.3 Show Ponies and Show Hunter Ponies.**

- a) Ponies entered in NPS Show Pony and Show Hunter Pony In Hand or Ridden classes must be registered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB; the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless entered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB.
- b) Ponies must be entered in the name and ownership under which they are currently registered and must be shown under their registered name.
- c) Manes must be plaited in all classes, excluding foals.

### **2.4 Hacks and Riding Horses.**

Ponies and horses entering the NPS Hack and Riding Horse In Hand classes do not have to meet any specific registration criteria but must have equine passports.

### **2.5 Open Working Hunter Ponies**

Ponies entering the NPS Open Working Hunter Pony classes do not have to meet any specific registration criteria but must have equine passports and manes must be plaited.

### **2.6 Bridles, Bits and Tack:**

- a) Where there are no specific Rules relating to use of bridles and bits in the Rule Book (either in this section or in the rules for the particular competition) the judge should take into account the suitability of the bridle and bit, based on the rider's competence and the way the horse/pony is going in the class.
- b) All ponies in Novice classes, except the M&M Novice First Ridden classes and the M&M Confined Novice Ridden Winter classes, must be shown in a snaffle. **A snaffle excludes any leverage bit which is defined as a bit having any extension below the mouthpiece.**
- c) All ponies in Leading Rein classes must be shown in a snaffle. The leading rein must be attached to the noseband only and the reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The only attachments to the saddle allowed are a crupper, or handle. Reins must not be attached to the handle or the saddle. The reins must be a normal length and not knotted together or stitched together at a shorter length.
- d) Ponies competing in NPS affiliated classes at any show, may only be ridden on the showground in tack appropriate to the class they are competing in that day, **with the exception of a correctly fitted running or standing martingale.**
- e) **Neck straps are permitted**
- f) M&M brood mares may be shown in a halter, leather head collar or any bridle. Other brood mares may be shown in a leather head collar or any bridle.
- g) M&M youngstock may be shown in a halter, leather head collar or snaffle bridle. Other youngstock may be shown in a leather head collar or snaffle bridle.
- h) All foals must be shown in a halter or leather head collar. No foal may be shown in a bit of any type.
- i) Ponies will not be penalised for wearing nose mesh nets providing they are not head shaking.
- j) A standard cavesson noseband is the only type of noseband permitted in flat ridden classes. **Crank nosebands are not permitted in any class.**
- k) Solid metal curb chains, frequently covered in leather, are not permitted.

- l) Only smooth rounded mouthpieces on bits are acceptable. Bits with wire mouths, square mouths, or those that have been modified from the manufacturer's original form are not acceptable in NPS classes.
- l) Bitless bridles and running gags are not permitted.
- m) No change of equipment is permitted between the class and the championship**

### **2.7 Stallions:**

All stallions and colts 2 years old or over must hold a Stallion Licence, unless otherwise governed by their individual Breed Society.

Ridden stallions **MUST** display a stallion bridle marker available from the NPS office or from any other society. In Hand stallions (2 years old and over) are advised to display a stallion bridle marker.

### **2.8 Brood Mares:**

- a) Brood mares must be four years old or over. (A Brood mare must be shown with foal at foot, or certified in foal with a vets certificate, for the following year)
- b) A mare that has lost her foal in the current year may, on production of a vet's certificate, compete in a Brood Mare class.
- c) A Barren Mare is defined as a mare without a foal at foot and not in foal. Barren mares are not eligible for Brood Mare classes.

### **2.9 Foals:**

- a) All foals must be at least four weeks old on the day of the show and must accompany their dam into the ring and be led alongside the mare as much as possible.

At Foal Shows:-

- Foals must be weaned
- Foals must not be shown under 20 weeks of age
- Foals must only be shown in a halter or head collar
- No foal to be shown in a bit of any type
- No foal to be lunged
- No foal to be body clipped
- b) Foals are not eligible for Silver Medal Rosette Championships **except at winter Foal Shows, where the winner will qualify for the Yearling Final at the Summer Championships**

### **2.10 Heights:**

The following height conversion table will be used:

<u>Hands</u>	<u>Cms</u>
12.0	122
12.2	128
13.0	133
13.2	138
14.0	143
14.2	148
15.0	153
15.2	158

### **2.11 Youngstock Heights:**

Recommended heights for young stock on the day of the show are as in the following table (1cm, approx. quarter of an inch, may be allowed for shoes).

Show Pony and Show Hunter pony youngstock may be required to be measured at the show before their classes. The smaller height class should be judged first so that ponies that are measured out can compete

in the next height section.

Adult Height	Yearling	2 Year Old	3 Year Old
122 cm (12.0 h.h.)	117 cm	120 cm	121 cm
128 cm (12.2 h.h.)	123 cm	126 cm	127 cm
133 cm (13.0 h.h.)	128 cm	131 cm	132 cm
138 cm (13.2 h.h.)	133 cm	136 cm	137 cm
143 cm (14.0 h.h.)	138 cm	141 cm	142 cm
148 cm (14.2 h.h.)	143 cm	146 cm	147 cm
153 cm (15.0 h.h.)	148 cm	151 cm	152 cm

### 3. Rules relating to Owners, Riders and Handlers

The Owner, Rider, Handler, and Exhibitor are responsible for ensuring the Rules on Impartiality are followed. Members are advised to thoroughly investigate past connections of their exhibits to avoid any conflicts of interest.

For the benefit of these rules, where a horse/pony is leased, it will be treated as the property of the Lessee/Borrower, who will be defined as the Owner for showing purposes

#### 3.1 Impartiality:

The NPS seeks to ensure that all its competitions are judged fairly and that there is no bias or favouritism. This is only achievable if owners, producers, riders, handlers and judges observe the following rules, in the spirit in which they are intended.

- a) NB. The definition of a Professional Producer/Trainer is - A person who undertakes the preparation and /or production of ponies/horses belonging to other exhibitors for the show ring including at a show. A producer is someone who has a horse/pony on their yard to show for the client and therefore has a financial interest.
- b) No horse/pony will be eligible for the final if the breeder or previous owners will be judging the final.
- c) A horse/pony may not be exhibited in a class or final where the horse/pony or its owner/producer/rider/handler has one of the following, or similar, connections with the judge:
  - the horse/pony has been bred, sold, loaned/leased, produced, broken, trained, ridden or shown by the judge or by the judge's immediate family, or by someone with whom the judge resides or has a personal relationship.(N.B.: Group teach-ins of 3 or more riders and demos are exempt)
  - the horse/pony has been bred, sold, loaned/leased, produced, broken, ridden or trained by the judge's employer, employee or business partner/associate.(NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt)
  - the owner/producer/rider/handler has, since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year, exhibited in the show ring, or produced a horse/pony for the judge or the judge's immediate family, or for someone with whom the judge resides or has a personal relationship. **This includes any ponies produced by a producer who also has produced a horse/pony for the judge or the judge's immediate family.**
  - the owner/producer/rider/handler has, since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year, loaned/leased from, or exhibited in the show ring, or produced a horse/pony for the judge, judge's employer, employee or business partner/associate.
  - the owner/producer/rider/handler has had any other connection (business or otherwise) with the judge, the judge's immediate family or business partner since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year (stud fees and associated costs are excluded).
  - the judge or the judge's immediate family has shown a pony/horse on behalf of the owner/exhibitor/producer since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year. The only exception will be if a

judge has shown a pony as handler or rider, in a championship only, they may not judge that pony in the current season (from 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year).

- The following are classified as immediate family for the purposes of clarification:
  - Husband/Wife/Partner
  - Parents/Partner's Parents
  - Grandparents
  - Brothers/Sisters
  - Sons/Daughters
  - Son/Daughter in Law
  - Uncles/Aunts
  - Nephews/Nieces
  - Step Grandparents
  - Step Parents
  - Step Brothers/Sisters
  - Brother/Sister in Law
  - Legal Guardians

- d) The onus is on the exhibitor to stand down in any class, championship or final where there is an infringement of 3.1.

### **3.2 Rider's and Handler's Ages:**

- a) In classes run under NPS Rules the ages of riders and handlers are all taken as at 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year. The only exception is for Leading Rein classes where the child must be at least 3 years old on the day of the class.
- b) No child under the age of 7 as of 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year may compete in in hand classes (except young handler classes) and may not show a stallion /colt as per rule f) below.
- c) In Mountain and Moorland classes riders of stallions must be 12 years old or over when riding small breeds (Shetland, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Welsh A & B). For large breeds (Highland, Fell, Dales, Connemara, New Forest, Welsh C & D) riders of stallions must be 14 years old or over.
- d) A child must have attained their 12th birthday as of the 1st January in the current year to either strip or lunge a pony at a NPS affiliated show, except for stallions where the minimum age will be in accordance with rule 3.2.f below.
- e) In Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony classes riders must be 12 years old or over when riding stallions not exceeding 128 cm and 14 years old or over when riding stallions exceeding 128cms.
- f) Handlers of stallions or colts must be 14 years old or over.
- g) People leading ponies in Leading Rein classes must be sixteen years old or over.
- h) In M&M Leading Rein classes, riders not to have attained their 9th birthday by the 1st January in the current year.
- i) In M&M First Ridden classes, riders not to have attained their 12th birthday by 1st January in the current year.
- j) In Plaited Leading Rein classes, riders not to have attained their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- k) In Plaited First Ridden classes, riders not to have attained their 10th birthday by 1st January in the current year.

### **3.3 Attire and Equipment:**

- a) Correctly secured Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet one of the following current Safety

Standards/specifications **MUST** be worn by all Riders of all ages. Hat Standards accepted as of 1st January 2026 are as follows: **PAS015 2011, VG1 2014-12, EN1384 2023, ASTM F1163 2015 & 2023, SNELL E2016 or 2021 onwards.**

Hats meeting more than one standard: Some hats are badged with two or more standards. As long as a hat contains at least one compliant hat standard, then it is deemed suitable for use under NPS rules, even if it is additionally labelled with an older or out of date standard.

Handlers of ponies in In Hand classes aged 14 years and under must wear a correctly secured skull caps/riding hat that meets one of the above standards.

- b) The NPS strongly recommends body protectors are worn in all NPS jumping competitions especially over fixed obstacles.
- c) Riders, handlers and their grooms must present themselves in the show ring neatly and smartly dressed at all times.
- d) It is recommended that riders of M&M ponies wear tweed jackets.
- e) Whips/canes must not exceed an overall length of 76 cms (30 inches) and if they are misused, in the opinion of the judge, the rider may be sent out of the ring and may also be reported to the NPS Disciplinary Committee.
- f) **The use of the whip must be:**
  - **For good reason - the whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the horse/pony forward or as a reprimand. Thus, it must never be used to vent a rider's temper.**
  - **With appropriate severity – as a reprimand only and a horse/pony should never be hit more than two times for any one incident and if a horse/pony is injured by a whip, e.g. if the skin is broken or there is a weal, it's use is excessive and the rider/handler subject to elimination.**
  - **The adverse use of schooling whips or any other whip or cane is not permitted within any area of the showground including lorry parks, stables and warm up areas.**
  - **Where lunging is permitted on the showground, the use of a lunge whip 'against the horse' is not permitted.**
  - **It is strongly recommended that only a padded whip/baton is carried in Working Hunter Pony Classes**
- g) The wearing of spurs in NPS affiliated classes is forbidden with the exception of Arena Eventing and NPS Dressage qualifiers and finals.
- h) **The wearing of any sort of jewellery when handling or riding a horse/pony is not recommended and if done at any NPS activity, is done at the risk of the member/their parent/guardian.**
- i) No unauthorised use of mobile phones and/or earpieces in the ring.
- j) In Ridden M&M classes at Breed Shows, where a judge may ride, riders using very small stirrup irons are requested to bring a spare set of irons and leathers of a suitable size for the judge.
- k) Bandages and protective pads on ponies' feet, or bar shoes, are not allowed.
- l) Tack and bits may be subject to inspection at NPS affiliated shows.

### **3.4 Organisation of Classes:**

- a) The class is closed and ponies will not be allowed into the ring:  
In Hand - When the last horse/pony has done its individual trot around the ring before being lined up  
Ridden - When the class goes into trot  
Leading Rein- When the last pony has done its individual trot around the ring before being lined up  
WHP - 2 minutes after the last pony has jumped
- b) Riders may not enter ponies in NPS qualifying rounds Hors Concours.

- c) Ponies may not be ridden side saddle in Leading Rein or First Ridden classes.
- d) Ponies will not be ridden by the judge except at Breed Shows and at the NPS Championship Show
- e) At the finals or where there are more than 20 entries forward, classes may be split.
- f) In some classes individual ponies may gallop but a whole class must never gallop together.
- g) In NPS qualifying Ridden classes, excluding Leading Rein and First Ridden, a minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped but not necessarily the first 6. When NPS First Ridden classes are run in conjunction with Horse of the Year Show qualifiers then all ponies must be stripped; in other NPS First Ridden classes ponies are not stripped. In NPS Leading Rein classes ponies are not stripped. The judge has the discretion not to strip a pony, if to do so would constitute a Health & Safety risk (eg due to adverse weather) or if the judge has already seen the pony stripped in an earlier class at the same show on the same day.
- h) In ALL NPS Finals, ALL ANIMALS forward must be stripped (excluding Leading Rein & First Ridden)
- i) A fall of pony or rider in the ridden phase of any class will result in disqualification. The rider must not remount in the ring. A fall of a rider in the in-hand phase may result in elimination at the discretion of the judge.
- j) No change of rider/handler will be allowed throughout a class except where a rider/handler is incapacitated and either the judge gives permission for the change, or the competitor is in possession of an NPS dispensation letter.
- k) The rider/handler may only remove their horse/pony or themselves from the ring during judging, with the judge's permission. The class ends when the judge dismisses the class.
- l) Where a rider/handler qualifies more than one pony for a championship they must elect eligible substitute riders/handlers for the other ponies for the championship.

### **3.5 Organisation of the Showground:**

- a) It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that horses and ponies are not left unattended whilst tied to the side of trailers or lorries.
- b) Lunging is allowable; if side reins are used they should only be used outside the ring with a snaffle bridle or cavesson.

### **1.6 Eligibility for Home Produced classes:**

- a) Classes are open to horses/ponies that have been stabled at home (without any paid assistance) or kept at livery on a DIY basis or at stud, since 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- b) To be owned/kept, produced, ridden/handled by a person who does not receive remuneration in cash or kind from working with horses/ponies, or acts as a Brand Ambassador. This does not include the suppliers of ancillary services such as farriers and vets. (Stud Fees and associated costs are also excluded) No professional producers are allowed into the ring to groom/strip the horse/pony.
- c) Rider/handlers must not have shown any horse/pony produced by a Professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- d) Ponies must not be shown by a rider/handler who has shown for a Professional producer/trainer/groom at any show since the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- e) The following definitions apply - Professional Producer: A person who keeps horses/ponies, including training, livery, schooling, rides or handles equines for the show ring for more than one exhibitor/owner paid or unpaid since 1st January in the preceding year. Professional Rider: A person of any age who rides horses/ponies in the show ring for more than one owner paid or unpaid since 1st January of the preceding year. Professional Handler: A person of any age who leads horses/ponies in the show ring for more than one owner paid or unpaid, including Lead Reins since 1st January of the preceding year.



NB: THE NPS EXPECTS COMPETITORS TO ACCEPT THE RULES OF HOME PRODUCED COMPETITIONS IN THE SPIRIT INTENDED.

## **4 Rules relating to Judges**

### **4.1 General:**

Judges must be familiar with and uphold all the rules in this Rules Book. The Rules in this section are just those specific to judges. All judges must understand and adjudicate according to all the Rules for Showing and the specific rules for the competitions they judge as defined in sections D to L of this Rule Book.

### **4.2 Appointment of judges:**

- a) The NPS Council may appoint any Member, in its absolute discretion, to the Panel of Judges to adjudicate events at shows where the objects and interests of the Society are promoted. All members who consent to be appointed to the Panel of Judges agree, as a condition of taking up their appointment, to be bound by these Rules.
- b) The Council reserves the right to amend, add to or subtract from these Rules provided that no such amendment, addition or subtraction from these Rules shall have retroactive effect nor shall be effective until published to all Members of the Society.
- c) Judges are appointed annually. Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion to not appoint or re-appoint to the Judges' Panel. The appointment of a member to the Panel of Judges will be valid for a period of one year from the effective date of appointment. The effective date of appointment is the 1st January in each year or other such date as the Council may from time to time decide. A member will cease to be a judge if the appointment to the Panel of Judges is not renewed within one year of the effective date of appointment. The names of members who have consented to be appointed to the Panel of Judges will be published by the Council.
- d) All members of the Panel of Judges must be members of the NPS. Judges who do not renew their membership will be removed from the Panel of Judges.
- e) The National Pony Society reserves the right to monitor judges whilst judging NPS affiliated classes.
- f) Everyone on the Panel of Judges must attend at least one NPS Judges' Conference / Study Day every FOUR years to keep themselves up to date and aware of judging issues and Breed Standards. Judges who fail to do this may be removed from the Panel of Judges.
- g) Instances where a judge fails to observe these Rules, or whose conduct is seen by the NPS Council as prejudicial to the character or interests of the NPS, will be referred to the Judges Selection Committee in the first instance and if required will be referred to the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures (see section C).
- h) The Council will review the position of any judge who receives a serious judging complaint and may remove the judge from the Panel of Judges or ask them to retrain.
- i) The Council may use its absolute discretion in inviting suitably qualified judges, to officiate at NPS Shows run by the Main Office.
- j) Judges should expect to receive reasonable travelling expenses, at a recommended mileage rate of up to 40p per mile.
- k) A referee judge from the appropriate panel wherever possible may be used in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the show.

### **4.3 Impartiality:**

- a) The NPS seeks to ensure that all its competitions are judged fairly and that there is no bias or

favouritism. This is only achievable if owners, producers, riders, handlers and judges observe the following rules in the spirit in which they are intended.

N.B. The definition of a Professional Producer/Trainer is - A person who undertakes the preparation and/or production of ponies/horses belonging to other exhibitors for the show ring including at a show. A producer is someone who has a horse/pony on their yard to show for the client and therefore has a financial interest.

- b) No horse/pony is eligible for the final if the breeder or owner will be judging the final.
- c) A judge may not adjudicate a class or final in which, to the judge's knowledge, there is a horse/pony or rider/handler that has one of the following, or similar, connections with the judge:
  - the horse/pony has been bred, sold, loaned/leased, produced, broken, trained, ridden or shown by the judge or by the judge's immediate family, or by someone with whom the judge resides or has a personal relationship.(N.B.: Group teach-ins of 3 or more riders and demos are exempt)
  - the horse/pony has been bred, sold, loaned/leased, produced, broken, ridden or trained by the judge's employer, employee or business partner/associate.(NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt)
  - the owner/producer/rider/handler has, since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year, exhibited in the show ring, or produced a horse/pony for the judge or the judge's immediate family, or for someone with whom the judge resides or has a personal relationship
  - the owner/producer/rider/handler has, since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year, loaned/leased from, or exhibited in the show ring, or produced a horse/pony for the judge, judge's employer, employee or business partner/associate. **This includes any ponies produced by a producer who also has produced a horse/pony for the judge or the judge's immediate family.**
  - the owner/producer/rider/handler has had any other connection (business or otherwise) with the judge, the judge's immediate family or business partner since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year (stud fees and associated costs are excluded).
  - the judge or the judge's immediate family has shown a pony/horse on behalf of the owner/exhibitor/producer since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year. The only exception will be if a judge has shown a pony as handler or rider, in a championship only, they may not judge that pony in the current season (from 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year).
  - The following are classified as immediate family for the purposes of clarification:
    - Husband/Wife/Partner
    - Parents/Partner's Parents
    - Grandparents
    - Brothers/Sisters
    - Sons/Daughters
    - Son/Daughter in Law
    - Uncles/Aunts
    - Nephews/Nieces
    - Step Grandparents
    - Step Parents
    - Step Brothers/Sisters
    - Brother/Sister in Law
    - Legal Guardians
- d) The onus is on the exhibitor to stand down in any class, championship or final where there is an infringement of 3.1 or 4.3.
- e) A Judge may not have as their Steward **or Probationer**, any person who owns a horse/pony, has bred a horse/pony or has any other interest, financial or otherwise, in a horse/pony in the class being judged.

#### **4.4 Eligibility to judge classes:**

##### **General:**

- a) At all Shows affiliated to the NPS, judges must be on the appropriate NPS Judges Panel – combined Riding Pony/Hunter Pony Breeding Panel, Mixed M&M Panel, Working Hunter Pony Panel, Open Working Hunter Pony Panel or the appropriate Breed Society Panel. All NPS qualifying rounds and Silver Medal Rosette Championships must be judged by NPS approved judges or as specified in the specific Class Rules below.
- b) Judges must not accept judging appointments for classes for which they are not qualified.
- c) Judges on NPS Panels should exercise discretion in accepting invitations to judge the same type of class in the same area in any one year. Judges are requested not to judge two qualifying rounds for the same competition in the same area of the country.
- d) Judges who are invited and accept an invitation to judge NPS competitions may only accept to judge, in the same year, the same classes at other shows if they are more than 50 miles apart (with the exception of Silver Medals). Allowances may be granted in exceptional circumstances, subject to approval.
- e) The judge who will be judging the final of an NPS competition, may not judge a qualifying round for that same competition except NPS Silver Medal Finals.

##### **Limitations on the number of qualifying rounds a judge can take on per year:**

- f) For most competitions judges may only judge four qualifying rounds per competition year. The exceptions are as follows:
  - For the NPS M&M Working Hunter Pony Royal International Horse Show Championship a judge may only judge two qualifying rounds per year. This is limited to one conformation section and one performance section. If a judge is only on the cWHP panel they may only judge one qualifying round per year.
  - For the NPS/Baileys Horse Feeds M&M (Horse of the Year Show) Ridden Championship judges may only judge one qualifier of each breed section in accordance with the Horse of the Year Show rule book.
  - For NPS Silver Medal Championships, there is no limit on the number of qualifying rounds that may be judged in one year.
- g) In exceptional circumstances, judges may, with the approval of the NPS Judges Selection Chairman or Competitions Chairman, judge extra qualifying rounds for an NPS Championship.
- h) In the event of a judge being unable to fulfill his/her judging commitment they must immediately inform the show secretary and make every effort to find a replacement judge.

##### **Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony classes:**

- i) For Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony In Hand and/or Ridden classes the judge must be on the combined NPS Riding Pony/Hunter Pony Breeding Panel.

##### **Mountain and Moorland Classes:**

- j) For mixed M&M classes the judge must be on the NPS Mixed M&M Panel, except for classes of a single breed when the rules are as follows:
  - At Breed Shows the judge may be on the panel of the breed concerned
  - At shows where there are two or more In Hand classes restricted to a single Mountain & Moorland breed, the judge must be on the Judges Panel of that breed.
  - Where there is only one In Hand class restricted to a single breed the judge may be from the breed panel concerned or from the NPS Mixed M&M Panel
  - Welsh Section A, B, C & D are each treated as a separate breed. For shows affiliated to the WPCS the judge must be on the specific breed panel. If the show is not affiliated to

the WPCS, Welsh A, B, C & D can be judged by any Welsh panel judge.

- k) At Breed Shows, M&M classes and M&M Silver Medal Rosette Championships can be judged by an NPS Panel judge or a judge from the Breed Panel concerned.
- l) For M&M Working Hunter Pony classes the judge must be on the NPS M&M Working Hunter Pony Panel. The exception is Breed Shows where the judge can be on the panel of the breed concerned.
- m) For Open Plaited Working Hunter Pony classes the judge must be on the NPS Plaited Working Hunter Pony Panel
- n) For the NPS/Baileys Horse Feeds Mountain and Moorland Ridden Pony of the Year Qualifiers
  - Judges for mixed classes may be selected from either the NPS Mixed MM A Panel, TSR H M&M panel or P(UK) Platinum panel. Shows running single breed classes may select judges from the appropriate breed panel.
  - Judges may only judge **one** qualifying round per year
  - All HOYS class judging appointments are subject to ratification by Grandstand Media Ltd
- o) Judges who have Axx (where xx is the year they were appointed) in the Official List of Judges and Rules are not eligible to Judge Horse of the Year Show Qualifiers or RIHS M&M WHP. Judges must be on the Full A panel with no annotations to take probationary judges to assess.
- p) Judges who have cWHP must not judge the jumping section of any working hunter qualifiers
- q) For the Hack and Riding Horse In Hand Supreme Championship the judge must be on the NPS Riding Pony panel or the British Show Horse Association Panel.
- r) For the British Isles Area Supreme Ridden and In Hand Championships the judge may or may not be an NPS judge but must be on a recognized horse/pony panel. For the final of the British Isles Area In Hand Championship there must be two judges, one from the Mixed M&M Panel, one from the combined Riding Pony/Hunter Pony Breeding Panel.

### **Silver Medal Rosette Championships:**

- s) Silver Medal Rosette Championships must not be judged jointly by two judges.
- t) The judge of the Championship and the classes leading up to it must be on the appropriate NPS Panel. (except for Breed Shows, where they may be from the Breed panel concerned.)

### **4.5 Awarding Silver Medal Rosettes and Qualification Cards**

- a) Please note that qualification cards will be issued for all Competitions except ridden Home Produced and Young Riders finals.
- b) Under the following circumstances the owner doesn't have to be an NPS member to receive a Silver Medal or to qualify for the final of a competition:
  - At Breed shows (including Silver Medals)
  - For the British Isles Area competitions (see section N)
  - For the NPS Winter competitions (see section O)
  - For the Event Pony and Dressage competitions
  - For the Ottergayle Hack and Riding Horse in Hand competition
  - For the ridden Open Ridden, Novice Ridden, Leading Rein and First Ridden Show Pony, Show Hunter Pony and Open Plaited Working Hunter Pony competitions
- c) If in the judge's opinion the class is of insufficient merit to warrant awarding the qualifier the judge may withhold the qualifying rosettes and cards but still award the show's rosettes.

#### 4.6 Judging:

- a) Judges must only be accompanied in the ring by persons appointed by the show or a Probationer Judge approved by the NPS Council or a trainee under the NPS Judge Mentoring Scheme.
- b) Judges are asked to always have their Rules Book with them in the ring as it is their responsibility to see that everyone adheres to the NPS Rules. Additional copies of the rule book may be requested from the NPS Office free of charge to Judges.
- c) Whilst Judges are encouraged to carry schedules, they are forbidden to refer to the show catalogue either prior to judging, or while judging their classes.
- d) If, in the opinion of the judge, any horse/pony entered for an event, adjudicated or to be adjudicated by the judge, is in an unsound condition, the judge may, at his/her discretion, require the rider/handler to withdraw the horse/pony from the class, subject to the right of the rider/handler to refer the matter to the Veterinary Surgeon, if any, officiating at the show.
- e) If, in the judge's opinion a rider/handler or their horse/pony's conduct is detrimental to the character and interests of the NPS they may eliminate them from the class and they may also report them to the NPS Disciplinary Committee.
- f) The judge may require that a horse/pony **or rider** which constitutes a **potential** danger leaves the ring; the judge's decision is final and will be supported by the Society, provided the judge has acted in accordance with this rulebook.
- g) If a judge has reasonable grounds to believe that a rule is being contravened the judge must ask the rider/handler to leave the ring and the horse/pony must be withdrawn. The judge's decision is final in all cases.
- h) Where more than 20 ponies are forward in any class, the class may be split. The judge should split the class according to the circumstances at the time.
- i) When judging M&M classes judges should take into consideration whether ponies have been trimmed within their Breed Society specification; manes must not be plaited and tails must not be braided.
- j) When judging M&M classes using the Marks System, 50 marks are allocated for ride/manners and 50 for conformation/Breed type. Where there is an equality of marks, the ride marks take precedence, however if there still remains a tie then the judge's decision is final. **If a mistake in the marks is discovered, even after dismissing a class, it MUST be corrected and any qualification/result amended.**
- k) At Finals, The National Pony Society reserves the right to have (use) unofficial mark sheets for the judges' reference only. The mark sheets will NOT be for public display.
- l) When judging Show Pony / Show Hunter Pony classes using the Marks System, 50 marks are allocated for ride/manners and 50 for conformation/ type. Where there is an equality of marks, the ride marks take precedence, however if there still remains a tie then the judge's decision is final.
- m) When judging Brood Mare classes, judges must take the condition of the foal into account.
- n) Organisation of classes – judges must take special note of the rules in section A 3.4 relating to organisation of classes.
- o) Where there are no specific rules relating to use of bridles and bits in the Rules Book (either in this section or in the rules for the particular competition) the judge can take into account the suitability of the bridle and bit, based on the rider's competence and the way the pony is going in the class.
- p) All ponies in Novice classes, except the M&M Novice First Ridden classes and the M&M Novice Winter classes, must be shown in a snaffle bit.
- q) All ponies in Leading Rein classes must be shown in a snaffle bit. The leading rein must be attached to the noseband only and the reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The only

attachments to the saddle allowed are a crupper, or handle. Reins must not be attached to the handle or the saddle. The reins must be a normal length and not knotted together or stitched together at a shorter length.

- r) The Judges' decision is final provided all relevant rules have been followed.

#### **4.7 Judging Working Hunter Pony classes**

- a) The judge should take into account the ring size, the state of the ground and conditions prevailing before setting and approving the height of the course. Judges of both phases must walk the WHP course before the commencement of their classes.
- b) No person other than the judge and official course builder appointed by the show is permitted to alter the course.
- c) Fences should be of 'hunting type' built with rustic materials and be as substantial as possible. The course must be free flowing to encourage natural paces in both plaited and native ponies.
- d) **Safety cups are mandatory for the back pole of an oxer.**
- e) The maximum spread must be at the base of the fence; not more than three fences may be of maximum spread. The width of the water jumps should not exceed the maximum spread in each section.
- f) All WHP courses should include a double, **apart from the First Ridden WHP**
- g) It is recommended that riders are allowed to walk the course on foot before their class.
- h) No rider may ride more than one pony in a class except that riders in all WHP and Arena Eventing classes that are not qualifiers for HOYS or RIHS may ride up to two ponies of the same height in a class, and both ponies can go forward for show and conformation judging. There must be no change of rider between the phases.
- i) No change of rider or saddlery is allowed between phases or during a phase. Protective front boots including over-reach boots of a plain colour may be used for the jumping and ridden phases only. **Back boots**, bandages and protective pads on ponies' feet are not allowed.
- j) Once judging has commenced, if a pony leaves the ring without permission from the judge, it will be eliminated from the class.

#### **Marking: M&M WHP**

Jumping	50
Style of native breed type whilst jumping & suitability of rider	20
Breed type/ <b>Movement</b> / Conformation/ Condition	20
Individual show and manners within type	10

#### **Marking: Plaited WHP**

Jumping	50
Style & manners while jumping & suitability of rider	20
Manners & Individual Show	10
Conformation, type & freedom of action	20

#### **Penalties: M&M and Plaited**

Jump knock down	10 faults
First refusal	15 faults
Second refusal	20 faults
Third refusal	Elimination
Fall of pony or rider	Disqualification

#### **Marking: Training Stakes**

Style mark (5 marks for each jumping effort)	50
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Overall impression & suitability of rider	20
<b><u>Penalties: Training Stakes</u></b>	
Jump knock down or refusal	5 faults
Third refusal	Elimination
Fall of pony or rider	Disqualification

- k) A refusal is when a pony turns its quarters to a fence or turns a complete circle in front of a fence or stops in front of a fence **for more than three seconds** or takes at least one step backwards, with any one foot.
- l) **Following a refusal at a combination, all obstacles of the combination must be re-attempted in the correct order.**
- m) No penalty is incurred unless the maximum height of the fence is lowered in the same vertical plane.
- n) Bullfinches must be securely staked in the ground. On a surface a solid frame with fixed feet may be used. The height of the frame must NOT exceed the minimum height for the class. It is advisable to place this type of fence, either as an individual fence, or as the second element of a double. It is not advisable to use this fence in Cradle Stakes and Nursery Stakes. Bullfinches will be judged for style and manners and will be reflected in the style mark, There are no knockdown penalties, Refusals will be marked as at a fence in accordance with Rule 4.7.i. Dykes and ditches with no knockdown pole will be marked for style and refusal
- o) The water splash is treated for marking purposes like any other obstacle. Competitors may splash through it or jump it, both approaches are acceptable.
- p) The jumping phase will be taken first and any pony eliminated will not be required again. The ponies called forward to the final judging will be those with clear rounds, but those with 10 faults or more can be included at the judge's discretion.
- q) In the event of a tie, the highest total jumping mark, followed by the individual performance mark followed by the conformation mark will prevail. If all 3 marks are the same the judge's decision is final.
- r) Except in Cradle Stakes, Nursery Stakes and First Ridden WHP classes, ponies may be galloped at the discretion of the Judge, but not more than one at a time.
- s) All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

## **5. Rules relating to Show Affiliation**

- a) All shows wishing to affiliate to the NPS must complete an affiliation form, pay the affiliation fee and submit a draft schedule and list of judges. The NPS will review the relevant parts of the schedule, validate the use of judges and provide feedback prior to the schedule going to print. The names of the judges must be clearly stated in the schedule. In the event of a change of judge, the show must immediately inform the NPS and seek approval of the substitute judge. The NPS reserves the right to refuse affiliation.
- b) There are special considerations for judging Silver Medal Championships. The judge of the Championship and the classes leading up to it must be on the appropriate NPS Panel or the relevant Breed Panel. Welsh A,B,C and D can be judged by any Welsh panel judge provided the show is not affiliated to the WPCS. The Championship must be judged by one judge and that judge's name must be printed in the schedule.
- c) Shows holding qualifying rounds for the M&M Working Hunter Pony RIHS Championship must charge a levy on entries as specified by the RIHS. At least six rosettes must be awarded in each class and the minimum prize money in each class must be: 1<sup>st</sup> - £25, 2<sup>nd</sup> - £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> - £10.

## ***A – RULES FOR SHOWING***

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- d) Where more than 20 ponies are forward in any NPS class, the class may be split. The Judge should split the class according to the circumstances at the time. Prize money and rosettes should be provided for the new class. The top ponies from each class are then put together for final judging and the decision on who qualifies.
- e) Breed Societies, including regional societies, may apply for special “NPS Breed Show” status. At Breed Shows competitors of the relevant breed can qualify without the normal restrictions on membership. The Owner of a pony must become a qualifying member of the NPS to enter the Final.
- f) NPS Areas holding Foal Shows and calling them NPS shows must affiliate and send in schedules for checking. Schedules must incorporate the rules as in section A 2.9.
- g) **As soon as a mistake in the marks is discovered, even after dismissing a class, it MUST be corrected and any qualification/result amended.**
- h) All NPS classes must be run under NPS rules. In Horse of the Year Show qualifying classes where there is a conflict of rules, Horse of the Year Show rules will take precedence over NPS rules.



**B. RULES FOR SPECIAL STEWARDS**

**SPECIAL SHOW STEWARDS**

1. The NPS shall have power to appoint a minimum of two Special Show Stewards to attend any Affiliated Show, the appointment to be made by at least two of the following, namely the Chairman, the Vice Chairman or if required a Trustee.
  - a) NPS Council Members are automatically appointed to act as Special Show Stewards and may appoint a witness to assist them in accordance with Rule 3.
2. The Special Show Stewards shall ensure so far as they are able that classes at the Affiliated Show for which they have been appointed are conducted in accordance with the NPS Rules and that generally the NPS Rules are observed at such Affiliated Show.
3. Special Show Stewards shall have the power to appoint such stewards to assist them as they consider necessary.
4. The Special Show Stewards may investigate any infringement of the NPS Rules observed by them or any alleged infringement reported to them by a show official, a Judge, a Member or any Exhibitor.
5. When an infringement or possible infringement of the NPS Rules is observed by a Special Show Steward or an alleged infringement is reported to him he shall investigate the position and if he concludes that an infringement has taken place he shall impose one of the penalties set out in Rule 7
6. If the Special Show Steward cannot decide whether an infringement has taken place, he/she may report the matter to Council, by notice in writing or email to the Office within 14 days of the date of the Affiliated Show in question.  
Council will decide whether to deal with the complaint internally or to refer it to the Disciplinary Committee or in the case of a judge, Judges Selection Committee.
7. If the Special Show Stewards decided that an infringement has taken place they may impose one or the more of the following penalties on the person committing the infringement.
  - a) admonish such person and caution him as to his future conduct.
  - b) direct that any horse/pony belonging to such person or produced by such person or ridden by such person at the time of the commission of the infringement may be disqualified from the class in which it was taking part at the time of the commission of the infringement
  - c) direct that such person and any horse/pony belonging to him or being produced by him may be disqualified from competing in any NPS classes at that Affiliated Show.
8. If in the opinion of a Special Show Steward a penalty greater than that permitted by Rule 7 should be imposed he may refer the matter to the Council or to the Disciplinary Committee by notice in writing to be received by the Office within 14 days of the date of the Affiliated Show in question.
9. The decision of the Special Show Steward shall be final and binding on all parties on the day of the Affiliated Show in question. However, any party aggrieved by the decision of the Special Show Steward may refer the matter by way of appeal to the Disciplinary Committee.

## ***B –RULES FOR SPECIAL STEWARDS***

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10. Any such appeal shall be by notice in writing given to the Office to be received by the Office within 14 days of the date of the Affiliated Show in question and shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of a sum of £300.

If the appeal is successful then the appeal fee shall be refundable but if the appeal is unsuccessful the appeal fee shall be forfeited to the NPS

11. On appeal the Disciplinary Committee shall rule as to whether the decision of the Special Show Steward was correct or not.

12. Special Show Stewards shall have control over and free access to all places used for the purpose of the NPS (Members, Exhibitors or Authorised Representatives) at an Affiliated Show but may only enter a horsebox or stable in the presence of the pony's owner or other person responsible for the pony.

## **C. RULES FOR DRUGS TESTING**

### **1. Warning to Members**

- a) Members and other exhibitors are advised that any Drugs Testing conducted by the NPS at NPS Shows or NPS Affiliated Shows will be in accordance with these rules.
- b) In common with other similar bodies, the NPS takes a very serious view of doping, whether intentional or unintentional, having particular regard to the safety of children. Members should be aware that many proprietary feeds and preparations contain Prohibited Substances as do many foods such as chocolate. Prohibited Substances can be absorbed through the skin and they are also contained in some homeopathic and herbal remedies.
- c) It is the responsibility of the member, owner and/or producer solely or jointly having custody of a horse/pony, to ensure that nothing is fed, administered or applied to a horse/pony that contains a Prohibited Substance. Ignorance is no defence.
- d) The NPS Office is not authorised to give guidance but, in general terms, all substances prohibited by the FEI from time to time will constitute Prohibited Substances. The NPS does not specify threshold levels for any Prohibited Substances but will have regard to those published by the FEI from time to time without being bound by them.

### **2. Definitions**

- a) “Drugs Testing” means the examination of a horse/pony by a duly qualified person appointed by the NPS and includes the taking of samples for subsequent analysis of all or any body fluid, tissue, excreta, hair or skin scrapings at the discretion of the person conducting the examination.
- b) Prohibited Substances are categorised as follows:
  - “Banned Substances” are substances that are deemed by the FEI to have no legitimate use in the competition horse/pony and/or have a high potential for abuse. They are not permitted for use in the competition horse/pony at any time.
  - “Controlled Medication” are substances that are deemed by the FEI to have therapeutic value and/or be commonly used in equine medicine. Controlled medication have the potential to affect performance and/or be a welfare risk to the horse/pony.

### **3. Drugs Testing Procedure**

- a) The NPS reserve the right to conduct drug testing by an authorised representative of the following societies: BSHA, BSPS, CHAPS, SHB (GB), JMB on behalf of the NPS
- b) Any horse/pony taking part in classes judged under NPS Rules will be liable to Drugs Testing in accordance with the Drugs Testing procedure laid down by this Rule. A refusal to submit a horse/pony for Drugs Testing shall constitute a breach of this Rule.
- c) The Sampling and Analysis Procedure is described in section 4 below.
- d) The presence in the tissues, body fluids, excreta, hair or skin of a horse/pony of a Prohibited Substance shall constitute a breach of this Rule.
- e) Any person who administered or attempts to administer or allows or causes to be administered or connives at the administration to a horse/pony of a Prohibited Substance shall be guilty of a breach of this Rule.
- f) Whenever a positive Drugs Test occurs, either on the expiration of the period for requesting confirmatory analysis of Sample B or on the analysis of Sample B proving positive as appropriate, (See section 4 below for the Sampling and Analysis Procedure)
  - i) The penalties defined in section 5 below shall be imposed.

- ii) The matter shall forthwith be referred to the Disciplinary Panel of the NPS for Further Investigation. The Chair and Vice Chair of Council acting together will appoint a disciplinary panel made up of three people who may not be members of the Society (the Disciplinary Panel). The Disciplinary Panel should be appointed within 14 days of the results of the positive Drug test being made known.

The disciplinary hearing will be held in front of the Disciplinary Panel. At the disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will take the owner and/or producer through the allegations and the evidence that has been gathered. The owner or producer will be able to respond and present any evidence.

The owner or producer may ask relevant witnesses to appear at the hearing, provided they have given the Disciplinary Panel sufficient advance notice to arrange their attendance. The owner and/or producer will be given the opportunity to respond to any information given by a witness.

Written statements may be introduced only if previously produced to and/or with the consent of the Disciplinary Panel.

The decision by the Disciplinary Panel and its reasons, along with any disciplinary penalty if appropriate, will be communicated to the owner and/or producer within 14 days of the date of the disciplinary hearing.

- iii) If the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures result in no disciplinary proceedings against any person suspended pursuant to Rule 5 c) then such suspension shall cease immediately and if no proceedings are initiated against either the owner or producer then the suspension of the horse/pony pursuant to Rule 5 b) shall also cease immediately.
- iv) If the Disciplinary Panel finds the conduct alleged to be proved, in whole or in part, it shall impose such of the following actions as seem appropriate given the circumstances of the case:
- . (a) Take no action (only if there are strong mitigating circumstances)
  - . (b) Give a reprimand or caution
  - . (c) Suspend membership on either a temporary or permanent basis.
  - . (d) Fine such person up to a maximum amount of £5,000

#### **4. Sampling and Analysis Procedure**

- a) Drugs Testing should take place as soon as possible after the participation of the horse/pony in its class provided that it does not interfere with its programme in which case the Drugs Testing should take place as soon as possible after the pony has completed its programme on that day.
- b) It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the pony whether it be the owner or the producer or other such person to supervise the horse/pony from the time of notification of selection for a Drugs Test until completion of the Drugs Testing. It is also the responsibility of this person to witness the sampling procedure and to sign a declaration to the effect that he/she has witnessed the collection and sealing of the test samples. Refusal or wilful obstruction by any person to submit a horse/pony for sampling or refusal to sign the abovementioned declaration is a violation of the Rules and must be reported immediately to the Society and will be subject to the same sanctions as a positive sample result.
- c) The owner, producer or other person responsible for the pony or his representative shall be entitled to witness the Drugs Testing without disturbing the pony but if not present the Drugs Testing will proceed in any event.

- d) All samples taken must be kept in a secure place and dispatched to the laboratory selected by the NPS as soon as reasonably possible after collection.
- e) The sample must be divided into two parts (hereinafter referred to as “Sample A” and “Sample B”) and the initial analysis of Sample A must be completed within 21 days of receipt of the sample by the laboratory. If the initial analysis produces a suspected positive result then the NPS may grant such extension as the laboratory requires to complete the analysis.
- f) The NPS shall send the results of the analysis of Sample A to the owner or producer by recorded delivery within 14 days of the results being known.
- g) If the result of analysis of Sample A is negative then no further action is required and then the laboratory may forthwith destroy Sample B.
- h) If the result of analysis of Sample A is positive then the owner or producer may require confirmatory analysis of Sample B by any approved laboratory, provided that a written request for such confirmatory analysis is received by the NPS within 14 days of dispatch by the NPS of notification of a positive analysis of Sample A.
- i) The owner or producer may request that findings be made in respect of particular matters during the analysis of Sample B on the basis that they will be responsible for all additional costs incurred whatever the result of the analysis of Sample B.
- j) If the result of analysis of Sample A is positive and no valid request for confirmatory analysis of Sample B is received then a positive Drugs Test shall be deemed to have occurred and
  - i) The Drugs Testing Rules step 3 e) shall be carried out.
  - ii) The owner or producer shall reimburse the NPS the cost of analysis of Sample A forthwith on demand
- k) Upon receipt of a valid request for confirmatory analysis of Sample B, the NPS shall inform the laboratory immediately and the laboratory shall carry out the analysis of Sample B.
- l) The NPS shall send the results of the analysis of Sample B to the owner or producer by recorded delivery within 14 days of the results being known.
- m) If the result of analysis of Sample B is negative then no further action is required.
- n) If the result of analysis of Sample B is positive then a positive Drugs Test has occurred and
  - i) The Drugs Testing Rules step 3 e) shall be carried out.
  - ii) The person requesting the analysis of Sample B shall reimburse the NPS the cost of analysis of Sample A and Sample B forthwith on demand

## **5. Penalties**

If the presence of a Prohibited Substance in the tissues, body fluids, excreta, hair or skin of a pony is confirmed by laboratory analysis carried out pursuant to this Rule then the following penalties shall be automatically imposed:-

- a) The pony shall be disqualified from any class, competition or championship in which it took part on the date of the drugs testing and any subsequent class, competition or championship for which it qualified on the date of the Drugs Testing and shall forfeit its placings, awards and prize money.
- b) The pony shall be suspended from being entered or shown or otherwise taking part in any NPS Affiliated Show pending the outcome of the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures.
- c) The owner and/or producer of such pony shall be suspended from all or any of the rights and privileges of membership of the NPS pending the outcome of the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures.

## ***C – RULES FOR DRUGS TESTING***

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- d) Any period of automatic suspension under this Rule shall commence when on the date of receipt of notification of a positive Drugs Testing by the owner or producer by recorded delivery post.
- e) The owner and/or producer will be responsible for any fine and other incurred costs of any positive sample.

## **D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **A. Complaints Policy**

This section sets out the procedure for dealing with complaints made against the Society and/or its members. This document also sets out the procedure for dealing with any person who at any time conducts themselves in a manner which may be deemed to bring the name of the Society into disrepute.

A complaint against a staff member/s should be reported in the same way but will be dealt with under the Society's internal HR/employment related policies.

The Society and its members endeavour to work to the highest standards in every regard. The Society considers its members to be a valuable resource in achieving its aims and does not envisage that it will receive many complaints. However, the Society wants to ensure that in the event that a complaint is made against a member of the Society, there is a procedure in place which ensures that:

- (a) the complaint will be dealt with fairly; and
- (b) the procedure and potential outcomes are clear for all parties involved.

Dealing with issues under formal complaints and disciplinary procedures can be time-consuming and potentially expensive for all concerned. The Society hopes that the majority of complaints that are received can be resolved informally where possible, which may include by way of mediation. This particularly applies (but is not limited) to allegations of poor behaviour in and around the show ring.

If an informal resolution and/or mediation is not possible or deemed inappropriate, the matter will be dealt with formally under the following procedures.

Complaints relating to JMB height certificates should be made to the JMB.

### **B. Complaints Procedure**

#### **1. COMPLAINTS**

- 1.1 If any member has a complaint against another member (including any Council member(s)) or a sub-committee, it should be submitted in writing by hand delivery, post or email, marked "private & confidential" and signed by the complainant. An electronic signature will suffice for complaints submitted by email. **The member must have a current membership at the date they became aware of the subject of the complaint.**
- 1.2 Any complaints submitted by post should be sent by way of recorded delivery addressed to: National Pony Society, RASE, Sixth Street, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. Proof of delivery should be retained by the complainant. Any complaints submitted by email should be sent to [admin@nationalponysociety.com](mailto:admin@nationalponysociety.com). A delivery receipt for emailed complaints or any hand deliveries should be obtained by the complainant.
- 1.3 Where a complaint is made against a member(s) within the NPS Office, then the complaint should be addressed to the Chairman of the NPS Council and marked "strictly confidential".
- 1.4 Where a complaint is made against the Chairman of the NPS Council, any subsequent references to powers of the Chairman in this Section D shall be vested in the Vice-Chairman to exercise, as appropriate, unless otherwise stated.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 1.5 A complaint must be accompanied by the complaint fee of £50. Failure to pay the fee will mean that the complaint will not be investigated under this Complaints Procedure. In respect of emailed complaints, the complaint will not formally be investigated until the appropriate fee is also received. In certain circumstances e.g. in matters of welfare, the fee may be waived but any such waiver shall remain at the sole discretion of the Chairman.
- 1.6 The complaint letter submitted under Rule 1.1 must contain full details of the circumstances giving rise to the complaint, including any alleged breaches of the Rule Book. The complainant may also submit supporting evidence by way of a statement, letter or email from an independent person(s) and/or any witness(es) in support of the facts and basis of the complaint.
- 1.7 Any such evidence provided in support of the complaint must be provided with the letter of complaint, unless there is good reason for not doing so.
- 1.8 The complaint, together with any supporting evidence and the complaint fee must be received within 28 days of the complainant becoming aware of the subject of the complaint. Any complaints (including any supporting evidence and the complaint fee) received outside of this timescale will only be investigated (or considered as part of the complaint, in the case of supporting evidence submitted late) at the sole discretion of the Chairman.
- 1.9 Administrative and/or technical support in handling any complaint pursuant to these Rules may be provided by Society staff, NPS Office and/or any members to assist the Society in the progression of any complaint.
- 1.10 In the event that:
  - 1.10.1 a party to a complaint believes that any person dealing with the complaint (including any Society staff, member(s), NPS Council member(s) or third parties) has or may have a direct or indirect conflict of interest with the subject matter of the complaint, or
  - 1.10.2 any person dealing with a complaint (including any Society staff, member(s), NPS Council member(s) or third parties) considers that they have or may have a direct or indirect conflict of interest with the subject matter of the complaint,they will report the same to the Chairman as soon as reasonably possible, who shall, at their sole discretion, determine whether that person should withdraw from dealing with the complaint, or any aspect thereof, and (where necessary) appoint a replacement. The Chairman shall have complete discretion to amend any timescales or deadlines under this Section D, which, as a result of any matters brought to their attention under this Rule, results in any delay to the same.
- 1.11 Without prejudice to the aforementioned, if any circumstances come to the attention of the Society, via any means, regarding the alleged conduct of a member, which may be deemed a breach of this Rule Book or otherwise bring the Society into disrepute, the member whose alleged conduct this relates to may be investigated in accordance with these procedures. In such circumstances, the Society (acting by a party nominated by the NPS Council but who shall not be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman) will be the complainant.
- 1.12 Without prejudice to any other Rules, if a court of law finds a member guilty of an offence relating to animal welfare, the member is obliged to inform the NPS Office and the Society shall be entitled to summarily take reciprocal action to that imposed by the court. For example, if the court issues a warning or reprimand, the Society may similarly warn or reprimand the member.



## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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The Society reserves the right to apply further sanctions as it deems appropriate, including any one or more of these set out in Rules 2.7.1 to 2.7.8 (inclusive) on a summary basis.

- 1.13 In the case of a Court banning a member from keeping/owning animals for a period of time, the Society, acting by its Council, may summarily revoke the membership of the member found guilty and ban them from membership for the full period of the ban imposed by the court or longer, if deemed appropriate.
- 1.14 There is no right of appeal against a sanction applied to a member by the Society in circumstances where a welfare issue has determined by a court of law as set out in Rules 1.12 and 1.13 above.

What will happen next?

- 1.15 The Society will send a letter or email acknowledging the complaint, fee and supporting documentation where appropriate and, if necessary, may ask for further details.
- 1.16 Save where a complaint has been submitted directly to the Chairman in accordance with Rule 1.3, or where the complaint is against the Chairman, the NPS Office will forward details of the complaint to the Chairman. Where the complaint is made against the Chairman, the NPS Office will forward details of the complaint to the Vice Chairman.
- 1.17 At their sole discretion, the Chairman shall be entitled to take any appropriate steps deemed necessary to resolve the complaint, including (without limitation) any one or more of the following:
  - 1.17.1 Request further information from the parties to the complaint, at any point, in any number of requests. The parties to the complaint shall reply to any such requests within any reasonable time limits stipulated by the Chairman, failing which the Chairman may at his option progress the complaint under these provisions and/or exercise his summary powers under Rule 1.19.
  - 1.17.2 Dismiss the complaint if, in the sole discretion of the Chairman, the complaint is deemed (without limitation) trivial, frivolous, unwarranted and/or vexatious. The Chairman will write to the complainant and/or respondent setting out their reasons for the same. There is no right to appeal the same.
  - 1.17.3 For complaints deemed less serious, resolve the complaint through an informal process, such process to be determined at the sole discretion of the Chairman, including (without limitation) inviting the parties to the complaint to discuss their concerns by telephone, in writing or in a meeting (if appropriate), provided always the respondent(s) has been given the opportunity to respond to the complaint made against them. Any failure of the parties to adhere to any agreed outcomes following this process will entitle the Chairman at his option to progress the original complaint under these provisions and/or exercise his summary powers under Rule 1.19.
  - 1.17.4 Save where Rule 1.17.8 applies, refer the details of the complaint to the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of any relevant sub-committee, who may be better placed to deal with the complaint, with the complainant duly notified of the same.
  - 1.17.5 Invite the parties to the complaint to participate in mediation. The conduct of any mediation shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Chairman. If the matter is resolved by mediation, the complaint fee will be refunded. Any failure of the parties to adhere to any agreed outcomes following a mediation will entitle the Chairman at his

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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option to progress the complaint under these provisions and/or exercise his summary powers under Rule 1.19.

1.17.6 Without prejudice to any other Rule, refer the complaint to the Council to be dealt with under Part 2.

1.17.7 Without prejudice to any other Rule, if the complaint is deemed sufficiently serious, refer the complaint to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure set out in Part 3.

1.17.8 In circumstances where the complaint relates to conduct of a sub-committee or pertains to a previous decision of a sub-committee, refer the matter to the Council under Part 2. For the avoidance of doubt, where the complaint relates to a decision made by a sub-committee under Rule 1.18, this is in fact an appeal and should be dealt with under Part 4.

1.18 Where any complaints have been referred to the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of any relevant sub-committee under Rule 1.17.4 above, at their sole discretion they shall be entitled to take any appropriate steps deemed necessary in order to resolve the complaint, including (but not limited to) any one or more of the following:

1.18.1 Forward the complaint to all members of the sub-committee for comment or discussion, which may be at the next committee meeting, or sooner if deemed necessary.

1.18.2 Exercise the same powers as set out in Rules 1.17.1 – 1.17.3, and 1.17.5 – 1.17.7 (inclusive) as set out above, and the powers under Rule 1.19.

1.19 Where this Rule applies, the Chairman may do the following:

1.19.1 In the case of Rule 1.17.1, uphold or dismiss the complaint or any part thereof. The Chairman will write to the complainant and/or respondent setting out his decision and his reasons for the same, including any sanctions applied.

1.19.2 For any complaints upheld, apply any sanction commensurate with the seriousness of the complaint, including the sanctions set out in Rules 2.7 and 3.25 below.

1.19.3 In the case of Rules 1.17.3 and 1.17.5, refer the conduct of the parties in failing to adhere to any agreed terms of settlement to a Council Panel (to be convened under Rule 2.2) for immediate sanction under Rule 2.7.

## **2. THE COUNCIL**

2.1 If the complaint is referred to the Council, this part shall apply. Upon referral to the Council:

2.1.1 The Council may decide to deal with the complaint in accordance with the procedure set out in this Part 2; or

2.1.2 If in its opinion the matter is sufficiently serious, the Council may refer the complaint to be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure as set out in Part 3.

2.2 If the Council elects to deal with the complaint itself, it shall appoint a panel of 3 members from the Council to carry out the functions under this Part 2 (“Council Panel”), but which shall not include the Chairman.

2.3 The Council Panel shall communicate in writing the substance of the allegations to the respondent(s) against whom they are made, to include the substance of any evidence relied upon

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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by the complainant. The Council Panel shall invite the respondent(s) to provide their written response within 14 days, together with any supporting evidence by way of a statement, letter or email from an independent person(s) and/or any witness(es).

- 2.4 The Council Panel shall be free to investigate and conduct matters coming to its attention during the course of the investigation as it considers appropriate, including requesting further information from the parties to the complaint (including any independent persons and witnesses) on any matters, at any point and in any number of requests, which may be in writing or orally.
- 2.5 Both the complainant and the respondent shall abide by any reasonable time limits set by the Council Panel to reply to any further requests for information.
- 2.6 Any failure by a party to respond to a request for further information or to adhere to any reasonable time limits set out in this Part 2 (or set by the Council Panel, as the case may be) without good reason, may, at the discretion of the Council Panel, result in the following (without limitation):
  - 2.6.1 The Council Panel proceeding to determine the outcome of the complaint based on the information before it under Rule 2.7.
  - 2.6.2 In the case of the complainant, the complaint being dismissed;
  - 2.6.3 In the case of the respondent, the complaint being upheld, in which case a sanction at Rule 2.7 may be applied.

The Council Panel shall be notify the parties in writing of any steps taken under this Rule, with reasons.

- 2.7 Upon completion of the steps set out above, the Council Panel shall determine the outcome of the complaint, including whether there has been a breach of these Rules. At their sole discretion, the Council Panel may determine any one or more of the following:
  - 2.7.1 Dismiss the complaint in whole or in part.
  - 2.7.2 Uphold the complaint (or any part thereof) but take no action, for example and without limitation, if there are strong mitigating circumstances or some other good reason(s).
  - 2.7.3 Give a reprimand or caution.
  - 2.7.4 Suspend membership on either a temporary or permanent basis.
  - 2.7.5 Suspend the Pony/Horse, Owner, Rider, Producer and/or Member or any other person participating in any Show(s) to which these Rules apply for any period of time, including for the avoidance of doubt, on a permanent basis.
  - 2.7.6 Fine the respondent up to a maximum amount of £5,000. Any failure by the respondent to pay such a fine within any stipulated time limit (absence which the default is 28 days), it may result in a suspension of their membership, either on a temporary or permanent basis, to be determined by the Council.
  - 2.7.7 Where the complaint is against a judge, they may be removed from the panel or panels or demoted to the B panel for any period of time, including permanently.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 2.7.8 Where the complaint is against an official, they may be prevented from officiating in any capacity at any Society affiliated show or event for any period of time, including permanently.
- 2.7.9 Where the parties have failed to adhere to any agreed terms of settlement pursuant to Rules 1.17.3 and 1.17.5, to enforce the agreed terms of settlement (where possible) by ordering any one or more of the aforementioned sanctions within this Rule 2.7. In the case of any failure on the part of the complainant in this regard, fine the complainant in the same manner as provided for under Rule 2.7.6.
- 2.8 The decision by the Council Panel and its reasons, along with any penalty (if appropriate), will be communicated to the parties within 14 days of the date of completion of Rule 2.7.
- 2.9 A written note of the Council Panel's deliberations should be made by the Society, setting out the reasons for any decisions made under Rule 2.7, and made available as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.
- 2.10 In the event that the complaint is upheld in full by the Council Panel, then the complainant will be repaid the complaint fee. Should the complaint not be upheld, then this sum will be retained by the Society.

### **3. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 This Disciplinary Procedure shall apply to complaints deemed to be of a more serious nature.

#### **Investigating Officer(s)**

- 3.2 The Chairman will appoint a person(s) assigned to investigate the complaint ("Investigating Officer(s)") subject to the Rules set out below.
- 3.3 If the complaint relates to a member of the Council or former member of the Council, the Investigating Officer(s) will be a panel of either one or three, consisting entirely of independent persons, who may or may not be a member of the Society.
- 3.4 If the complaint relates to any other member of the Society, the Investigating Officer(s) will be a panel of either one or three, consisting of Council members, independent persons (who may not be members of the Society) or any combination of the two.
- 3.5 The investigation of the complaint will be carried out by the Investigating Officer(s) within a reasonable timescale subject to any issues outside of their control.
- 3.6 The Investigating Officer(s) shall communicate in writing the substance of the allegations to the respondent(s) against whom they are made, to include the substance of any evidence relied upon by the complainant. Unless there are safeguarding concerns or there is a potential criminal matter, this will usually involve sharing the full details of the complaint with the respondent, which in certain circumstances may include the identity of the complainant and any witnesses. The Investigating Officer(s) shall invite the respondent(s) to provide their written response within 14 days, together with any supporting evidence by way of a statement, letter or email from an independent person(s) and/or any witness(es).
- 3.7 The Investigating Officer(s) shall be free to investigate the complaint and conduct matters coming to its attention as they consider appropriate during the course of the investigation, including

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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requesting further information from the parties to the complaint (including any independent persons and witnesses) on any matters, at any point and in any number of requests, which may be in writing or orally.

- 3.8 Both the complainant and the respondent shall abide by any reasonable time limits set by the Investigating Officer(s) to reply to any further requests for information.
- 3.9 Any failure by a party to respond to a request for further information or to adhere to any reasonable time limits set by the Investigating Officer(s) without good reason, may result in the following:
  - 3.9.1 The Investigating Officer(s) proceeding with its investigation and making a recommendation under Rule 3.10, based on the information available to them;
  - 3.9.2 In the case of the complainant, the complaint being dismissed;
  - 3.9.3 In the case of the respondent, the complaint being upheld. In such circumstances, the Investigating Officer shall determine a sanction to be applied pursuant to Rule 3.25, along with any cost sanctions under Rule 3.27 (if appropriate).

The Investigating Officer(s) shall notify the parties in writing of any steps taken under this Rule, with reasons.

- 3.10 Once the investigation has been concluded, a determination will be made by the Investigating Officer(s), who will notify the Chairman in writing of the decision together with the reasons for this decision, to include their view on any factual disputes and recommendations for sanctions to be applied by the Disciplinary Panel, if any. The Investigating Officer(s) will therefore either:
  - 3.10.1 Dismiss the complaint in whole or in part; or
  - 3.10.2 Recommend that the complaint be upheld, whether in whole or in part, and in doing so that the complaint be referred to the Society's disciplinary proceedings.
- 3.11 As soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, and only in circumstances where Rule 3.10.2 applies, the Investigating Officer(s) shall at the same time provide the Chairman with their dates of unavailability for the forthcoming 3 months to attend a hearing. Where the Investigating Officers comprise more than a single person, the Investigating Officers shall be entitled to nominate a single person to represent the Investigating Officers at the disciplinary hearing to present their findings in this regard.
- 3.12 Where the Investigating Officer determines that the complaint be dismissed under Rule 3.10.1, the Chairman shall notify the parties of the outcome in writing, with reasons, as soon as reasonably practicable.

### **Disciplinary Proceedings**

- 3.13 Within 14 days of receipt of a recommendation from the Investigating Officer(s) under Rule 3.10.2, the Chairman will appoint a disciplinary panel ("Disciplinary Panel"). The Disciplinary Panel is granted general case management powers and is therefore entitled to grant reasonable requests for extensions to any time limits set out in this procedure. The Chairman will notify the parties in writing of the identities of the Disciplinary Panel.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 3.14 The Disciplinary Panel shall be comprised of three persons, with no prior involvement in dealing with the complaint, who may or may not be members of the Society, but may not include the Chairman. For these purposes, in the event that the Council determined under Rule 2.1 that the complaint should be dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure, members of the Council are *not* to be considered as having prior dealings in the complaint and so are eligible to be appointed to the Disciplinary Panel.
- 3.15 Within 14 days of being appointed, the Disciplinary Panel will notify the parties that there will be a disciplinary hearing convened to determine the outcome of the complaint. Where appropriate, the following will be included:
- 3.15.1 A summary of relevant information gathered by the Investigating Officer(s) during the investigation, including their recommendations as to the outcome of the complaint and any sanctions to be applied;
- 3.15.2 A copy of any relevant documents which will be used at the disciplinary hearing; and
- 3.15.3 A copy of any relevant witness statements, except where a witness's identity is to be kept confidential, in which case the other party will be given either a redacted version of the statement or as much information as possible while maintaining confidentiality.
- 3.16 Within 14 days of receipt of the information at Rule 3.15, the parties must each inform the Disciplinary Panel in writing:
- 3.16.1 If they intend to contest the recommendations of the Investigating Officer(s) or any part thereof, including identifying which elements of the recommendations will be contested and the reasons why.
- 3.16.2 If they and any witnesses wish to attend the hearing, together with their dates of unavailability in the forthcoming 2 months.
- 3.16.3 Any request for the hearing to take place remotely via video conferencing facility and the reasons why.
- 3.16.4 If appropriate, raise any issues under Rule 1.10 concerning the selection of the Disciplinary Panel. The Chairman shall also be notified by the party raising the objection of any issues raised in this regard, who will then make a determination pursuant to Rule 1.10, including appointing any replacement person(s) to the Disciplinary Panel.
- 3.17 If either or both of the parties fail to respond as directed under Rule 3.16, the Disciplinary Panel may continue with the disciplinary proceedings in a manner they see fit, including (but not limited to) listing the hearing or (if both parties fail to respond) determining the outcome of the complaint on the papers alone without proceeding to a hearing, having regard to the recommendations of the Investigating Officer(s). In such circumstances, the Disciplinary Panel shall write to the parties setting out its decision with reasons as soon as reasonably practicable. A written note of the Disciplinary Panel's deliberations should be made, setting out the reasons for the decisions made as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 3.18 Upon completion of the steps in Rule 3.16 and within a further 14 days thereafter, the Disciplinary Panel will provide the parties written notice of the date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing (including if it is to take place remotely). The hearing will be held as soon as reasonably practicable, but the parties will be given a reasonable amount of time to prepare their case based on the information given to them by the Disciplinary Panel.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 3.19 The Investigating Officer(s) shall also be notified of the date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing at the same time as the parties under Rule 3.18. The Disciplinary Panel shall at the same time provide copies of the correspondence received from the parties under Rule 3.16 to the Investigating Officer(s) for their review.

### **Disciplinary Hearing**

- 3.20 The disciplinary hearing will be held before the Disciplinary Panel. The Disciplinary Panel will have complete discretion as to how the hearing will proceed, but as a general guide, in any sequence:
- 3.20.1 The Investigating Officer(s) will present their findings to the Disciplinary Panel, to include (if so advised) their responses to the written comments provided by the parties under Rule 3.16 and to call and examine any witnesses.
  - 3.20.2 The respondent shall be given the opportunity to present their position, including to call and examine any witnesses.
  - 3.20.3 The complainant shall be given the opportunity to present their position, if they choose and insofar as may be required (given that the Investigating Officer may have already done so under Rule 3.20.1), including to call and examine any witnesses.
  - 3.20.4 At their sole discretion, the Disciplinary Panel shall be entitled to intervene, query and comment on the matters brought to their attention throughout the hearing.
- 3.21 Further written witness statements may not be introduced at the disciplinary hearing and should be rejected as a matter of course by the Disciplinary Panel. Only in very exceptional circumstances, in the interests of fairness, should the Disciplinary Panel consent to further written witness statements being introduced at the disciplinary hearing.
- 3.22 The Disciplinary Panel may make a finding, whether at or following the disciplinary hearing, that the allegations are:
- 3.22.1 Proved, in whole or in part; or
  - 3.22.2 Unproved, in whole or in part.
- 3.23 The decision by the Disciplinary Panel and its reasons, together with any disciplinary penalty (if appropriate) and any cost awards under Rule 3.27, will be communicated to the parties within 14 days of the date of the disciplinary hearing.
- 3.24 A written note of the Disciplinary Hearing should be taken by the Society and made available as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

### **Disciplinary Penalties**

- 3.25 If the Disciplinary Panel finds the conduct alleged to be proved, in whole or in part, it shall impose such of the following actions as seem appropriate given the circumstances of the case:
- 3.25.1 Uphold the complaint (or any part thereof) but take no action (only, for example and without limitation, if there are strong mitigating circumstances or some other good reason(s)).
  - 3.25.2 Give a reprimand or caution.

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- 3.25.3 Suspend membership on either a temporary or permanent basis.
- 3.25.4 Suspend the Pony/Horse, Owner, Rider, Producer and/or Member or any other person participating in any Show(s) to which these Rules apply for any period of time, including for the avoidance of doubt, on a permanent basis.
- 3.25.5 Fine such person up to a maximum amount of £5,000. Any failure by the respondent to pay such a fine within the stipulated time limit (absence which the default is 28 days) may result in a suspension of their membership, either on a temporary or permanent basis, to be determined by the Council.
- 3.25.6 In the case of a complaint against a judge, they may be removed from the panel or panels or demoted to the B panel for any period of time, including permanently.
- 3.25.7 In the case of a complaint against an official, they may be prevented from officiating in any capacity at any Society affiliated show or event for any period of time, including permanently.
- 3.26 The parties shall be responsible for their own legal costs.
- 3.27 Should the complaint be upheld, whether in whole or part, the respondent shall also pay:
  - 3.27.1 Expenses incurred by the members of the Disciplinary Panel.
  - 3.27.2 The expenses relating to any hearing, including room hire.
  - 3.27.3 The administrative expenses of the Society (including Investigating Officer) limited to £500.

The amount of expenses to be paid shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Panel.

- 3.28 Any failure on the part of a member ordered to pay costs in accordance with Rule 3.27 within any stipulated timeframe (absence which the default is 14 days), may result in the Council suspending the membership of the member in question, including permanently.
- 3.29 Any decision of the Disciplinary Panel made pursuant to the powers conferred by these Rules may be published in any newspaper or periodical as the Council may direct, subject to any appeal pursued.

## **4. APPEAL**

### **Criteria for appeals**

- 4.1 An appeal may not be pursued because a member disagrees with the outcome of a complaint and merely wishes to retry the same issues. There must be some other good reason for pursuing an appeal. An appeal may only be submitted under this Part provided it satisfies the strict conditions under which an appeal may proceed, as follows:
  - 4.1.1 The original decision was incorrect because of a serious mistake in the interpretation of the Rules. Note that an interpretation of the Rules that is reasonable is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.



## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 4.1.2 There was a serious procedural error in the application of these Rules and that procedural error was central to the outcome of the complaint. Note that any procedural errors that would not have impacted the outcome of the complaint is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.
- 4.1.3 The penalty imposed is excessive or unduly harsh. Note that the Council Panel and Disciplinary Panel have a wide discretion as to the penalties they may impose and therefore a disagreement as to the penalty in and of itself is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.
- 4.1.4 In respect of:
- a. any findings of fact; and/or
  - b. a finding that there is insufficient evidence to support a complaint,
- neither are generally capable of appeal unless it can be shown that there was a serious error in determining such findings and (in the case of Rule 4.1.4.a) that finding was central to the outcome of the complaint. Note that any finding made that is reasonable is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.
- 4.1.5 A decision exercised by the Chairman under Rule 1.17.2 (or by a sub-committee exercising the same power under Rule 1.18.2) is not capable of appeal.
- 4.2 In circumstances where:
- 4.2.1 Rule 1.4 applies, and an appeal is pursued against a decision of the Vice-Chairman (under Part 1), or
- 4.2.2 An appeal is pursued against a decision of the Chairman under Part 1,
- the Council shall appoint a single independent Council member or a panel of 3 Council members to carry out the functions of the Chairman under this Part 4, provided they have had no prior involvement in dealing with the complaint.

### **Commencement of appeal**

- 4.3 If a member (hereby the “Appellant”) wishes to submit an appeal under this Section D, then they must do so in writing by hand delivery, post or email, marked “private & confidential” and signed by the Appellant. An electronic signature will suffice for complaints submitted by email.
- 4.4 Appeals submitted by post should be sent by way of recorded delivery addressed to NPS Office, National Pony Society, RASE Centre, 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. Proof of delivery should be retained by the Appellant. Any complaints submitted by email should be sent to: [admin@nationalponysociety.com](mailto:admin@nationalponysociety.com) . A delivery receipt for emailed complaints or any hand deliveries should be obtained by the Appellant.
- 4.5 The appeal must be accompanied by the appeal fee of £300. Failure to pay the appeal fee will mean that the appeal will not proceed until such time as it is paid, subject to Rule 4.6 below. In respect of emailed appeals, the appeal will not be valid until the appeal fee is also received. In certain circumstances e.g. in matters of welfare, the fee may be waived but any such waiver shall remain at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 4.6 The appeal submitted must contain detailed grounds of appeal, along with any additional evidence upon which it wishes to rely. The Appellant must also provide their dates of unavailability for the forthcoming 2 months, should an appeal hearing be deemed required.
- 4.7 The appeal must be submitted by the Appellant and received by the Society within 14 days of the date of the written notification to the parties of the decision (with reasons) being appealed. In circumstances where the Appellant has requested but has not yet received the note of deliberations made under Rule 2.9 or the note of the disciplinary hearing under Rule 3.24, the appeal must still be submitted within the aforementioned deadline. However, the Appellant shall be entitled to amend or add to its grounds of appeal within 14 days of receipt of the aforementioned notes, provided they were requested within the time limit to submit an appeal. Any appeals (including the appeal fee) received outside of the time limit will not be allowed to proceed unless in exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the Chairman. Appeals validly submitted within the time limit shall have the effect of staying any sanctions or costs awarded against the Appellant.
- 4.8 Upon receipt of the grounds of appeal, the Chairman will make an early determination as to whether the grounds relied upon by the Appellant satisfy the requirements of Rule 4.1. If, at the sole discretion of the Chairman, they deem the requirements of Rule 4.1 are not met, the appeal will be summarily dismissed and the Appellant will be duly notified in writing. Note that by allowing the appeal to proceed beyond this stage, the Chairman in no way fetters the decision-making powers of the Appeal Committee to make its own determination under Rule 4.14 on the same issue.

### **Responses to grounds of appeal**

- 4.9 Upon completion of the steps above, the Chairman will provide a copy of the grounds of appeal to the opposing party (“Appeal Respondent”), being the original complainant or original respondent, as the case may be. The Chairman will invite the Appeal Respondent to provide their written response to the grounds of appeal. The Appeal Respondent shall provide their full written response to the grounds of appeal, along with any additional evidence upon which it wishes to rely within 14 days of receipt of the Chairman’s communication. The Appeal Respondent shall also provide their dates of unavailability for the forthcoming 2 months, should an appeal hearing be deemed required.
- 4.10 The Chairman will provide a copy of the Appeal Respondent’s response to the Appellant. The Appellant shall have no right of reply.
- 4.11 In respect of appeals arising out of Part 3 (decisions of the Disciplinary Panel), upon completion of the steps above, the Chairman shall provide the grounds of appeal and the Appeal Respondent’s response together with any supporting documents relied upon, to the Investigating Officer(s) for their comments. The Investigating Officer(s) will provide their written response to the Chairman within 14 days together with their dates of unavailability for the forthcoming 2 months should a hearing be listed. Where the Investigating Officer(s) comprise more than a single person, the Investigating Officer(s) shall be entitled to nominate a single person to represent the Investigating Officers at the appeal hearing. As soon as possible thereafter, the Chairman will then provide the Investigation Officer(s)’s written response to the Appellant and the Appeal Respondent, who shall have no right of reply.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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### **Appeal Committee & Bundle**

- 4.12 Following the steps set out above, the Chairman will appoint an appeal committee (“Appeal Committee”) comprising three persons, who have had no prior involvement in the complaint, who may or may not be members of the Society and one of whom may be a solicitor or barrister.
- 4.13 Upon the Appeal Committee’s appointment, the Society will prepare a bundle of documents (“Appeal Bundle”) containing any documents deemed relevant for the purposes of disposing of the appeal, to include (without limitation and as appropriate), the complaint, the respondent’s reply, any further responses from the parties following any requests for further information, any written recommendations by the Investigating Officer(s), the written decision of the Chairman, Council or Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be) and the appeal documents prepared under this Part 4.
- 4.14 The Appeal Bundle will be provided to the Appeal Committee, who will then determine whether the appeal fits the criteria under Rule 4.1. If, in their sole discretion, they deem the requirements of Rule 4.1 are not met, the appeal will be summarily dismissed, with no right of further appeal, and the parties will be duly notified in writing. If the Appeal Committee determine that the appeal can proceed, the following provisions will apply.

### **Determination of the Appeal**

- 4.15 Appeals may be dealt with on the papers or at an appeal hearing. Where an appeal is dealt with on the papers alone, the Appeal Committee will notify the parties of the same in writing and then convene as soon as reasonably practicable to determine the outcome of the appeal in accordance with Rule 4.18.
- 4.16 If the Appeal Committee determines that a hearing is required, the Appeal Committee will give the parties and (if appropriate) the Investigating Officer(s) written notice of the date, time and place of any appeal hearing.
- 4.17 If a hearing takes place, the Appeal Committee will have complete discretion as to how the hearing will proceed, but as a general guide, in any sequence:
  - 4.17.1 The Appellant shall be given the opportunity to present their position on the appeal.
  - 4.17.2 The Appeal Respondent shall be given the opportunity to present their position on the appeal.
  - 4.17.3 If applicable, the Investigating Officer will present their position on the appeal.
  - 4.17.4 At their sole discretion, the Appeal Committee shall be entitled to intervene, query and comment on the matters brought to their attention throughout the hearing.
- 4.18 The Appeal Committee will consider all the evidence and make its decision which may be to (without limitation):
  - 4.18.1 Confirm the original decision, whether in full or in part, including in relation to any cost award made by the Disciplinary Panel;
  - 4.18.2 Revoke the original decision, whether in full or in part, including in relation to any cost award made by the Disciplinary Panel; and/or
  - 4.18.3 Substitute or impose a different penalty to that imposed.

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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- 4.19 The parties shall be responsible for their own legal costs.
- 4.20 Should the appeal be denied, whether in whole or part, the Appeal Committee may also require the unsuccessful party to the appeal to pay:
  - 4.20.1 Expenses incurred by the members of the Appeal Committee.
  - 4.20.2 The expenses relating to any hearing, including room hire.
  - 4.20.3 The administrative expenses of the Society (including Investigating Officer) limited to £500.

The amount of expenses to be paid shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Appeal Committee.

- 4.21 The Appeal Committee will inform the parties in writing of its final decision, with reasons, along with any disciplinary penalty if appropriate, within 14 days of the date of the appeal hearing. There will be no further right of appeal.
- 4.20 Any failure on the part of a member ordered to pay a fine under Rule 3.25 and any costs and expenses in accordance with Rule 4.20, within any stipulated timeframe (absence which the default is 28 days), may result in the Council suspending the membership of the member in question, including permanently.
- 4.20 Any decision of the Appeal Committee made pursuant to the powers conferred by these Rules may be published in any newspaper or periodical as the Council may direct.

## **5. JMB Objections**

- 5.1 Any dispute or complaint in respect of a JMB Certificate must be referred to the JMB Stewards and will be dealt with in accordance with their Rules. If an objection is lodged against a height certificate or the NPS requests a re-measurement the pony must be re-measured within 21 days of the notification by the J.M.B. of the objection or request. Unless the pony is re-measured within this time its eligibility to compete in NPS affiliated classes will be withdrawn and the matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and the membership of the owner, at the time of the request for a re-measurement will be suspended.
- 5.2 The NPS have the right to request a measurement on any pony registered on an Annual JMB Height Certificate whether or not it has been issued during the current year or on any Full Height Certificate. The pony must be measured at the owner's expense within 21 days of notification by the NPS
- 5.3 Unless the pony is measured within this time its eligibility to compete in NPS affiliated classes will be withdrawn and the matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and the membership of the owner, at the time of the request for a measurement will be suspended.
- 5.4 An animal that received an objection to its JMB height certificate which is subsequently upheld will forfeit any previous qualification gained for Horse of the Year Show, Royal International Horse Show, NPS Championships Shows or NPS qualifiers in the current year and the qualification will be passed to the next eligible exhibit with the eligible placings.

P.O. Box 396, Hereford, HR1 9QQ  
Tel:- 01981 510201

### **6. Social Media and Internet Policy**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

- a) The NPS acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, home web-pages, chat rooms, BBM and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which “social media” plays in the day to day lives of members.
- b) This policy note is to remind members that the Rules of the NPS apply to members when using social media and the internet. Failure to adhere to this policy note could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member.

#### **6.2 Using Social Media**

- a. You should be aware that the NPS may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the NPS and its members.
- b. NPS produced images are the subject of copyright and should not be copied or used in social media save as provided in the NPS website user terms and conditions.
- c. You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to social media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the NPS.
- d. You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the NPS, its members or former members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the NPS.
- e. You must not post or transmit any material relating to the NPS, members or former members or their horses or ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the NPS:
  - i. 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
  - ii. which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the NPS. 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.
- f. Any breach of this policy note may constitute a breach of the NPS Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.
- g. If a complaint is active, any public discussion or comment by the complainant pertaining to the subject including on social media or other digital forum, will automatically result in the case being closed.

#### **6.3 Disclosure under Law or Regulation**

## ***D. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES***

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

**E. RULES FOR HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW QUALIFIERS**

The rules in this section only apply to Horse of the Year Show qualifiers.

1. All ponies competing in Horse of the Year Show pony classes affiliated to the NPS are required to be in possession of a JMB Full Height Certificate or a JMB Annual Height Certificate issued in the current year, within 28 days of the notification of qualification from HOYS or by the closing date of HOYS entries, whichever is sooner. (Excluding Welsh Section D, Dales and Exmoor competing in the M& Ridden Pony of the Year and the Junior M&M of the Year.)
2. Judges on relevant full NPS “A” panels, TSR H, BSPS, UKPH Platinum or breed society panels may judge the following classes.
  - a) Open Leading Rein and Open First Ridden classes
  - b) Open 128 cms, 138 cms and 148 cms Show Pony classes
  - c) Open 133 cms, 143 cms and 153 cms Working Hunter Pony classes
  - d) Open Leading Rein of Hunter Type classes
  - e) Open 123 cms, 133 cms, 143 cms and 153 cms Show Hunter Pony classes
  - f) Open 153 cms & 158 cms Intermediate Show Riding, Show Hunter and Working Hunter classes
  - g) M&M Leading Rein and First Ridden classes
  - h) Open M&M Ridden classes (Except BSPS Judges)
  - i) M&M Working Hunter Pony classes
  - j) M&M Junior Ridden
3. Shows should pick judges from within the main body of the panel and ensure judges have adequate experience within the field they are being asked to judge. Judges must be approved by the Horse of the Year Show Office.
4. The Horse of the Year Show qualification is subject to confirmation from Horse of the Year Show.
5. Where these classes are held under NPS rules and there is a conflict between these rules and the general rules and regulations of the Horse of the Year Show, the latter will prevail.
6. To compete in relevant Horse of the Year Show qualifiers under NPS membership, the owner of the pony may be a Life or Qualifying member, the rider may be a Life, Qualifying or Junior member. **Please note that membership of NPS Scotland does not cover competitors to compete in Horse of the Year Show qualifiers**

A full copy of the Horse of the Year Show rules can be obtained from:

Grandstand Media Ltd  
Stoneleigh Events  
Stoneleigh Park  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2LZ

[www.hoys.co.uk](http://www.hoys.co.uk)

Tel: 02477 712110

Email: [showsecretary@hoys.co.uk](mailto:showsecretary@hoys.co.uk)

## **F. RULES FOR M&M RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **1. M&M Open Ridden National Championship**

**MM-OR**

#### **The NPS/RINGSIDE STUD M&M Open Ridden National Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings five years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Two or five classes as follows:

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>
Dartmoor	Connemara
Exmoor	Dales
Shetland	Fell
Welsh A	Highland
Welsh B	New Forest
	Welsh C
	Welsh D

**or**

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>	<u>Class 3</u>	<u>Class 4</u>	<u>Class 5</u>
Dartmoor	Welsh A	Dales	New Forest	Welsh C
Exmoor	Welsh B	Fell	Connemara	Welsh D
Shetland		Highland		

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) To be shown in any suitable bridle, subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- f) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

#### **Judge required: MM Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing Horse of the Year Show qualifier, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be an NPS A panel MM Judge. The second Judge may be on an external M&M panel and is subject to NPS Office approval.



**2. M&M Young Ridden Pony National Championship**

**MM-4/5/6R**

**The NPS/DARGAVEL-VALGARDE M&M Young Ridden Pony National Championship.**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings four, five or six years old, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Three classes as follows:

Class 1

All Breeds  
4 Years Old

Class 2

All Breeds  
5 Years Old

Class 3

All Breeds  
6 Years Old

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- g) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- d) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- e) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**3. M&M Intermediate Ridden National Championship**

**MM-IR**

**The NPS/PEASEDOWN STUD & JESS TALBOT M&M Intermediate Ridden National Championship.**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings five years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

A pony is not eligible to compete if it has qualified before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year for:

- i) The M&M Open Ridden Championship final at Horse of the Year Show or
- ii) The M&M Supreme Ridden Championship final at LIHS.
- iii) The M&M Open Ridden Championship Final at Royal International Horse Show

Two or five classes as follows:

Class 1	Class 2
Dartmoor	Connemara
Exmoor	Dales
Shetland	Fell
Welsh A	Highland
Welsh B	New Forest
	Welsh C
	Welsh D

or

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>	<u>Class 3</u>	<u>Class 4</u>	<u>Class 5</u>
Dartmoor	Welsh A	New Forest	Fell	Welsh C
Exmoor	Welsh B	Connemara	Highland	Welsh D
Shetland			Dales	

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- f) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**4. M&M Novice Ridden National Championship**

**MM-NR**

**The NPS/PICTON M&M Novice Ridden National Championship.**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

A pony is not eligible to compete if, before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year it has done any of the following:

- i. Won an open affiliated mixed M&M Ridden class
- ii. Qualified for Horse of the Year Show, LIHS or RIHS Open M&M Ridden classes
- iii. Qualified for the M&M Novice or Intermediate Ridden final at the NPS Summer Championship show (N.B. Ponies can compete as novices in this competition for two consecutive years provided they do not submit an entry to the final in the first year).
- iv. If a pony qualifies for Horse of the Year Show, LIHS or RIHS in its second year it is immediately de-noviced and cannot compete in the Picton Final.

Five classes as follows:

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>	<u>Class 3</u>	<u>Class 4</u>	<u>Class 5</u>
Dartmoor	Welsh A	New Forest	Fell	Welsh C
Exmoor	Welsh B	Connemara	Highland	Welsh D
Shetland			Dales	

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit.
- f) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**5. M&M Junior Ridden National Championship**

**MM-JR**

**The NPS/ M&M Junior Ridden National Championship.**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

**Two classes as follows:**

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>
Dartmoor	Connemara
Exmoor	Dales
Shetland	Fell
Welsh A	Highland
Welsh B	New Forest
	Welsh C
	Welsh D

- b) Rider Class 1 – Under 14 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year  
Class 2 – Under 18 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year  
(see rules in section A 3.2)
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified, the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- f) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**6. M&M First Ridden National Championship**

**MM-FR**

**The NPS M&M/PARTRIDGE & PARR First Ridden National Championship.**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over not exceeding 128cms, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.  
(NB. At the final there will be two sections – Welsh and Non Welsh breeds)
- e) Ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show.
- f) Where this competition is run in conjunction with a Horse of the Year Show qualifier the ponies may be stripped; otherwise they will not be stripped.
- g) Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- h) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing Horse of the Year Show qualifier, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be an NPS A panel MM Judge. The second Judge may be on an external M&M panel and is subject to NPS Office approval.

**7. M&M Novice First Ridden National Championship –**

**MM-NFR**

**The NPS/BRYNDEFAID STUD M&M Novice First Ridden National Championship.**

- a) Criteria as above 6 A to D.
- b) The pony never to have won a first prize of £10 or more in any First Ridden Mountain & Moorland classes or qualified for the NPS M&M Open First Ridden final before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- c) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- d) Ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show.
- e) Ponies will not be stripped
- f) Ponies must not be ridden side saddle.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**8. M&M Leading Rein National Championship**

**MM-LR**

**The NPS M&M/SHOWING CLASSICS Leading Rein National Championship.**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over not exceeding 122 cms, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place. (NB. At the final there will be two sections – Welsh and Non Welsh breeds)
- e) Ponies will not be stripped.
- f) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- g) Handles on saddles are permitted.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing Horse of the Year Show qualifier, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be an NPS A panel MM Judge. The second Judge may be on an external M&M panel and is subject to NPS Office approval.

**9. M&M Novice Leading Rein National Championship**

**MM-NLR**

**The NPS M&M Novice Leading Rein National Championship**

**Kindly sponsored by THE KING'S HEAD**

- a) Criteria as above 8 A to D.
- b) The pony never to have won a first prize of £10 or more in any Mountain & Moorland Leading Rein classes or qualified for the NPS M&M Open Leading Rein final before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- c) Ponies will not be stripped.
- d) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- e) Handles on saddles are permitted.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

## G. Rules for M&M Working Hunter Pony NATIONAL Championships MM-RIHS

### 1. M&M Working Hunter Pony Championship (RIHS)

#### The NPS/BAILEYS HORSE FEEDS M&M Working Hunter Pony Longines Royal International Horse Show Championship

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings five years old or over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. **Ponies in qualifiers** may be measured at the judge's discretion, and must be within the specified height range for their breed.

FOUR classes as follows:

Class 1 – Ponies not exceeding 122cms

Class 2 – Ponies exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms

Class 3 – Ponies exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms

Class 4 – Ponies exceeding 143cms but not exceeding 148 (with the exception of Welsh Section D and Dales for which there is no height restriction).

Fence heights for qualifying rounds – all heights will increase by 5cm at the final.

	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max.(spread)</u>
Class 1	55 cms (1'10')	70 cms (2'4'')	55 cms (1'10'')
Class 2	65 cms (2'2'')	80 cms (2'8'')	65 cms (2'2'')
Class 3	75 cms (2'6'')	90 cms (2'11'')	75 cms (2'6'')
Class 4	85 cms (2'10'')	100 cms (3'3'')	85 cms (2'10'')

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2). Riders may only ride one pony in each class.
- c) Riders must have competed in at least 2 M&M WHP Royal International Horse Show qualifying rounds before competing in the Final at the Royal International Horse Show and must send proof of this to the office as per the instructions on the allocated qualifying card
- d) The owner has to be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS for the pony to enter this competition. (N.B. At the final at Hickstead the rider must also be a NPS member).
- e) **As all owners must be members to enter this competition, membership cards will not need to be shown in the ring.**
- f) The highest placed pony in each class goes forward to the final at RIHS. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line that has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification may go no lower than third place, with the exception of Royal Windsor Horse Show where qualification may go no lower than fifth place. (N.B. Qualification has to be verified by the NPS Office.
- g) **Pony to have a valid JMB height certificate before 1st June. (This excludes Dales and Welsh Section D entries for the exceeding 143 class). All pony's height certificates will be checked prior to the final**
- h) Entries into the final at Hickstead are the responsibility of the owner and are made directly to RIHS.
- i) The course will consist of a minimum of twelve numbered fences, a minimum of two of which must be spreads. A water tray (containing water) as well as a change of direction must be included, and a natural water splash is optional, the use of water trays as a water splash is prohibited on the grounds of safety. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence. The water splash is treated for marking purposes like any other obstacle. Competitors may splash through it or jump it, both approaches are acceptable. A water splash will be included in the final at Hickstead.
- j) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.

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- k) The minimum prize money awarded in each class is as follows:  
1<sup>st</sup> - £25,      2<sup>nd</sup> - £15,      3<sup>rd</sup> - £10
- l) See section A 4.7 for judging and marking criteria for working hunter pony classes.

**Judge required: MM WHP Panel (Judges who have annotation after WHP are not eligible)**



## ***G.RULES FOR M&M WORKING HUNTER PONY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

### **2. M&M Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

**MM-WHP**

#### **The NPS/SMITHERS SHOW TEAM M&M Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings five years old or over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion.
- b) FOUR classes as follows:
  - Class 1 – Ponies not exceeding 122cms
  - Class 2 – Ponies exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms
  - Class 3 – Ponies exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms
  - Class 4 – Ponies exceeding 143cms but not exceeding 148 (with the exception of Welsh Section D and Dales for which there is no height restriction).

	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max.(spread)</u>
Class 1	55 cms	70 cms	55 cms
Class 2	65 cms	80 cms	65 cms
Class 3	75 cms	90 cms	75 cms
Class 4	85 cms	100 cms	85 cms

- c) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- d) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- i) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) The course will consist of a minimum of seven fences, one of which must be a spread. A water tray and a change of direction must be included. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence
- f) See section A 4.7 for judging and marking criteria for working hunter pony classes.
- g) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- h) All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

**Judge required: MM WHP Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing Horse of the Year Show qualifier, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be an NPS A panel MM Judge. The second Judge may be on an external M&M panel and is subject to NPS Office approval.

## **3. M&M Intermediate Working Hunter Pony National Championship      MM-IWHP**

### **The NPS/ AREA 5 M&M Intermediate Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings five years old or over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion.

The pony never to have qualified for the M&M **Open** Working Hunter Pony (Horse of the Year Show or RIHS) finals before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.

FOUR classes as follows:

Class 1 – Ponies not exceeding 122cms

Class 2 – Ponies exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms

Class 3 – Ponies exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms

Class 4 – Ponies exceeding 143cms but not exceeding 148 (with the exception of Welsh Section D and Dales for which there is no height restriction).

<u>Fences</u>	<u>Height</u>		<u>Spread</u>
	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max (Spread).</u>
Class 1	50cms	65cms	50cms
Class 2	60cms	75cms	60cms
Class 3	70cms	85cms	70cms
Class4	80cms	95cms	80cms

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- j) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- d) The course will consist of a minimum of seven fences, one of which must be a spread. A water tray and a change of direction must be included. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence
- e) See section A 4.7 for judging and marking criteria for working hunter pony classes.
- f) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- g) All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

**Judge required: MM WHP Panel**

## **4. M&M Novice Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

**MM-NWHP**

### **The NPS/ELITE COACHWORKS & HORSEBOXES LTD M&M Novice Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings four years old or over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion.

A pony is not eligible to compete if, before 1st January in the current year, it has done any of the following:

- i. Won an open affiliated mixed WHP class
- ii. Qualified for Horse of the Year Show or RIHS Open WHP classes
- iii. Qualified for the M&M Novice or Intermediate WHP final at the NPS Summer Championship show (N.B. Ponies can compete as novices in this competition for two consecutive years provided they do not submit an entry to the final in the first year).
- iv. If a pony qualifies for Horse of the Year Show or RIHS in its second year it is immediately de-noviced and cannot compete in the Novice WHP Final.
- v. Ponies that have won more than 5 BE points or 200 BS points, at home or equivalent abroad before 1st January in the current year, are not eligible to compete in novice working classes.

FOUR classes as follows:

Class 1 – Ponies not exceeding 122cms

Class 2 – Ponies exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms

Class 3 – Ponies exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms

Class 4 – Ponies exceeding 143cms but not exceeding 148 (with the exception of Welsh Section D and Dales for which there is no height restriction).

<u>Fences</u>	<u>Height</u>		<u>Spread</u>
	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max.</u>
Class 1	45cms	60cms	45cms
Class 2	55cms	65cms	55cms
Class 3	65cms	75cms	65cms
Class 4	75cms	85cms	75cms

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.

The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member

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and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.

- d) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit.
- e) The course will consist of a minimum of seven fences, one of which must be a spread. A water tray will not be included in qualifying rounds but will be included in the final. A change of direction must be included. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence.
- f) See section A 4.7 for judging and marking criteria for working hunter pony classes.
- g) All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

**Judge required: MM WHP Panel**

## **5. M&M Junior Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

**MM-JWHP**

### **The NPS/ORLANDO STUD M&M Junior Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings four years old or over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion.

Three classes as follows:

Class 1 - Ponies not exceeding 128 cms

Class 2 – Ponies exceeding 128 cms but not exceeding 138 cms

Class 3 – Ponies exceeding 138 cms but not exceeding 148 cms (with the exception of Dales and Welsh D Cobs)

<u>Fences</u>	<u>Height</u>		<u>Spread</u>
	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max.</u>
Class 1	50 cms	65 cms	50 cms
Class 2	60 cms	75 cms	60 cms
Class 3	70 cms	80 cms	65 cms

- b) Rider Class 1 – Under 14 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> January  
Class 2 – Under 16 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> January  
Class 3 – Under 18 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> January  
except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The three highest placed ponies, owned by an NPS member, in each class go forward to the final. Where these ponies has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than fifth place.
- e) The course will consist of a minimum of seven fences, one of which must be a spread. A water tray and a change of direction must be included. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence
- f) See section A 4.7 for judging and marking criteria for working hunter pony classes.
- g) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- h) All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

**Judge required: MM WHP Panel**

## 6. M&M First Ridden Working Hunter Pony National Championship

MM-FRWHP

### The NPS/STEVENSON BROTHERS ROCKING HORSES M&M First Ridden Working Hunter Pony National Championship

- a) Mares and geldings four years old or over, not exceeding 128 cms, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.  
Fences  
Height: Min - 45 cms Max - 55 cms Spread: Max - 45 cms
- b) Rider over 5 years but under 12 years (see rules in section A 3.2). Riders who have qualified for the (Horse of the Year Show or RIHS) **Open or Junior** M&M WHP Championship before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year, on any pony, are not eligible. Riders may only ride one pony in this class.
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The three highest placed ponies, owned by an NPS member, in each class go forward to the final. Where these ponies has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than fifth place.
- e) Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- f) The course will consist of a minimum of seven fences, one of which must be a spread. A change of direction must be included. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence.
- g) See section A 4.7 for judging and marking criteria for working hunter pony classes.
- h) Ponies MUST NOT be asked to gallop.
- i) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- j) All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

**Judge required: MM WHP Panel**

## H. RULES FOR M&M IN HAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MM-IH

### 1. M&M In Hand Summer Championship

#### The NPS/ABSORBINE M&M In Hand Summer Championship

- a) Youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Four classes as follows (may be amalgamated into two classes, either spilt by age or by Breed size (large and small)):

Class 1 Yearlings, 2 and 3 year ponies

Dartmoor  
Exmoor  
Shetland  
Welsh A  
Welsh B

Class 2 Ponies 4 years old & over

Dartmoor  
Exmoor  
Shetland  
Welsh A  
Welsh B

Class 3 Yearlings, 2 and 3 year ponies

Connemara  
Dales

Class 4 Ponies 4 years old & over

Connemara  
Dales

## ***H – RULES FOR M&M IN HAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

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Fell  
Highland  
New Forest  
Welsh C  
Welsh D

Fell  
Highland  
New Forest  
Welsh C  
Welsh D

- b) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2 & A 2.8). Foals are not eligible. **At winter Foal Shows, the winner in each class will qualify for the Yearling Final at the Summer Championships, subject to rule d) below**
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.

**Judge required: MM Panel**





**2. M&M Home Produced In Hand National Championship –**

**MM-HPIH**

**The NPS/MOLE VALLEY FARMERS M&M Home Produced In Hand National Championship.**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings any age, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

Please see the definition of Home Produced in section A 3.6. Please enter this class in the spirit it is intended. Competitors who contravene the above will be disqualified.

Two classes as follows, or split at the show's discretion:

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>
Dartmoor	Connemara
Exmoor	Dales
Shetland	Fell
Welsh A	Highland
Welsh B	New Forest
	Welsh C
	Welsh D

- b) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

# ***I – RULES FOR SHOW PONY / SHOW HUNTER PONY RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

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## **I. RULES FOR SHOW PONY & SHOW HUNTER PONY RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **1. Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Ridden Championship**

**SP-R**

#### **NPS/LEEMAN FAMILY Open Ridden Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Gold Medal Championship**

Stallions, mares and geldings four years old and over registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register; the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections. or the Ridden Register.

- a) Five classes as follows (Classes may be amalgamated):-
  - a) Class 1 – Show Ponies not exceeding 133cms
  - b) Class 2 – Show Hunter Ponies not exceeding 133cms
  - c) Class 3 – Show Ponies exceeding 133cms and not exceeding 148cms
  - d) Class 4 – Show Hunter Ponies exceeding 133cms and not exceeding 153cms
  - e) Class 5 – Intermediate Show Riding Type or Show Hunter Type, exceeding 148cms and not exceeding 158cms. Optional
- b) Rider to be suitable size for pony. Riders must be 12 years old or over when riding stallions not exceeding 128 cm and 14 years old or over when riding stallions exceeding 128 cms.
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) The highest placed pony in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- f) This class is not open to Leading Rein or First Ridden
- g) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

**Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing class, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be a NPS A panel RPB/HPB Judge. The second Judge may be on an external plaited pony panel and is subject to NPS Office approval.



# ***I – RULES FOR SHOW PONY / SHOW HUNTER PONY RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

## **2. Show Pony/Show Hunter Novice Ridden Championship**

**SP-NR**

### **The NPS/ROSETTES DIRECT Show Pony/Show Hunter Novice Ridden Championship**

Stallions, mares and geldings, four years old and over, registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register; the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections. or the Ridden Register

A pony is not eligible to compete if, before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year it has done any of the following:

- i. Won an Open affiliated SP/SHP ridden class
- ii. Qualified for Horse of the Year Show or RIHS Open SP/SHP Ridden classes
- iii. Qualified for the SP/SHP Novice Ridden final at the NPS Summer Championship show (N.B. Ponies can compete as novices in this competition for two consecutive years provided they do not submit an entry to the final in the first year).
- iv. If a pony qualifies for Horse of the Year Show or RIHS in its second year it is immediately de-noviced and cannot compete in the Novice SP/SHP Final.

a) Five classes as follows (Classes may be amalgamated):-

b) Class 1 – Show Ponies not exceeding 133cms

c) Class 2 – Show Hunter Ponies not exceeding 133cms

d) Class 3 – Show Ponies exceeding 133cms and not exceeding 148cms

e) Class 4 – Show Hunter Ponies exceeding 133cms and not exceeding 153cms

f) Class 5 – Intermediate Show Riding Type or Show Hunter Type, exceeding 148cms and not exceeding 158cms. Optional

g) Riders to be of a suitable size for the pony. Riders must be 12 years old or over when riding stallions not exceeding 128 cm and 14 years old or over when riding stallions exceeding 128 cms.

h) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life members of the NPS to enter the final.

i) The highest placed pony in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.

j) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit.

k) This class is not open to Leading Rein or First Ridden

l) A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

### **Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing class, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be a NPS A panel RPB/HPB Judge. The second Judge may be on an external plaited pony panel and is subject to NPS Office approval.

***I – RULES FOR SHOW PONY / SHOW HUNTER PONY RIDDEN NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS***

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# ***I – RULES FOR SHOW PONY / SHOW HUNTER PONY RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

## **3. Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony First Ridden National Championship**

**SP-FR**

### **The NPS/ Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony First Ridden National Championship.**

- a. Mares and geldings four years old and over not exceeding 122 cms, registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections. or the Ridden Register.
- b. Rider not to have attained their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c. The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life members of the NPS to enter the final.
- d. The highest placed pony in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e. Ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show
- f. Ponies will not be stripped
- g. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle
- h. To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rule 2.6.j & k

**Judge required: RPB/HPB**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing class, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be a NPS A panel RPB/HPB Judge. The second Judge may be on an external plaited pony panel subject to NPS Office approval.

## **4. Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Novice First Ridden**

**SP-NFR**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over not exceeding 122 cms, registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections. or the Ridden Register.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The pony never to have won a first prize of £10 or more in any SP/SHP First Ridden classes before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- d) Ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show
- e) Ponies will not be stripped
- f) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle

**THIS IS A STAND ALONE COMPETITION AND DOES NOT HAVE A FINAL AT THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Judge required: RPB/HPB**

# ***I – RULES FOR SHOW PONY / SHOW HUNTER PONY RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

## **5. Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Leading Rein National Championship**

**SP-LR**

**The NPS/ Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Leading Rein National Championship.**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over not exceeding 122 cms, registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register; the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections. or the Ridden Register.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday for both Show Ponies and Show Hunter Ponies by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year. (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life members of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) The highest placed Show Pony and Show Hunter Pony in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) Ponies will not be stripped
- f) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.

**Judge required: RPB/HBP NB:** If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing class, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be a NPS A panel RPB/HPB Judge. The second Judge may be on an external plaited pony panel subject to NPS Office approval.

## **6. Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Novice Leading Rein**

**SP-NLR**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over not exceeding 122 cms, registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register; the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections. or the Ridden Register.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday for both Show Ponies and Show Hunter Ponies by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year. (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The pony never to have won a first prize of £10 or more in any SP/SHP Leading Rein class before 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- d) Ponies will not be stripped
- e) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.

**THIS IS A STAND ALONE COMPETITION AND DOES NOT HAVE A FINAL AT THE SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Judge required: RPB/HPB**

**J. RULES FOR OPEN WORKING HUNTER AND COMPETITION PONY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1. Open Working Hunter Pony National Championship**

**O-WHP**

**The NPS/RIVERVALLEY STUD Open Working Hunter Pony/Working Show Pony National Championship**

Open to mares, geldings and stallions (except classes 1 and 2), four year old and over, in possession of an equine passport but no specific registration or breed society criteria. Ponies' manes must be plaited. Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion.

Ponies to be judged according to type, either a working hunter or working show pony.

Four classes as follows or chosen at shows discretion:

Class 1 - Cradle Stakes, ponies not exceeding 122cms, rider not to have attained their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday before 1<sup>st</sup> Jan in the current year.

Class 2 – Nursery Stakes, ponies not exceeding 133cms, rider not to have attained their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday before 1<sup>st</sup> Jan in the current year.

Class 3 – Ponies not exceeding 143cms, rider any age.

Class 4 – Ponies exceeding 143cms but not exceeding 158cms, rider any age.

<u>Fences</u>	<u>Height</u>		<u>Spread</u>
	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max.</u>
Class 1	45 cms	55 cms	45 cms
Class 2	45 cms	60 cms	50 cms
Class 3	70 cms	80 cms	70 cms
Class 4	80 cms	90 cms	80 cms

- The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life members of the NPS to enter the final.
- The highest placed pony in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- The course will consist of a minimum of seven fences, one which must be a spread. A change of direction must be included. Water trays will not be included in Class 1 or Class 2. In Classes 3 -4 if a water tray is included it must not exceed the maximum width. If a hazard is included, it will be numbered and judged as a fence.
- If insufficient entries this competition will be run as a mixed height class. Riders must jump in the correct height section and be the correct age for the animal they ride for Nursery & Cradle sections.
- To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- All ponies forward for final judging must be stripped.

**Judge required: PWHP Panel**

NB: If the NPS qualifier is being run alongside an existing class, and there are two Judges officiating, at least one of those Judges must be a NPS A panel PWHP Judge. The second Judge may be on an external plaited pony panel subject to NPS Office approval.



## ***K – RULES FOR BRITISH RIDING PONY IN HAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

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### **K. RULES FOR SHOW PONY & SHOW HUNTER PONY IN HAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

#### **1. Show Pony In Hand Supreme National Championship**

**SP-IH**

**The NPS/KALUSTA STUD British Riding Pony (Show Pony) In Hand Supreme National Championship.**

- a) Youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings not to exceed 148 cms at maturity, registered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, **Supplementary** Appendix, International or Sports Category section of the BRPSB; the GSB, the AHSB, the AASB or registered in the main body of their respective Mountain & Moorland stud books. Part-Breds are not eligible unless **overstamped into one of the British Riding Pony sections listed above.**

Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion (see also section A 2.12).

Shows should hold at least three classes out of the following (classes may be amalgamated):

Class 1 – Yearling colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 128cms at maturity

Class 2 – 2 or 3 year old colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 128cms at maturity

Class 3 – Yearling colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 138cms at maturity.

Class 4 – 2 or 3 year old colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 138cms at maturity

Class 5 – Yearling colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 148cms at maturity.

Class 6 – 2 or 3 year old colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 148cms at maturity

Class 7 – Brood mare 4 years old or over, in foal for the current year or with foal at foot.

Class 8 – Stallion 4 years old or over

Class 9 – Barren mare or gelding 4 years old or over

- b) Handler any age except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2)
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed ponies, owned by NPS members, in each class go forward to the final at the NPS Summer Championship show for ponies not exceeding 148cms at maturity. Qualification may go no lower than third place.
- e) Classes may be amalgamated.
- f) Foals not eligible for the Final
- g) If not running a separate home-produced section, shows may choose to incorporate a home-produced qualifier within these classes and the qualification will be awarded to the highest placed home-produced competitor who must wear a white armband.

**Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

## **2. Show Hunter Pony In Hand National Championship**

**HP-IH**

### **The NPS/TEAM CHARLESWORTH British Riding Pony (Show Hunter Pony) In Hand National Championship.**

- h) Youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings not to exceed 153 cms at maturity, registered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, **Supplementary** Appendix, International or Sports Category section of the BRPSB; the GSB, the AHSB, the AASB or registered in the main body of their respective Mountain & Moorland stud books. Part-Breds are not eligible **unless overstamped into one of the British Riding Pony sections listed above.**

Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion (see also section A 2.12).

Shows should hold at least two classes out of the following (classes may be amalgamated):

Class 1 – Yearling colt, filly or gelding not to exceed 133cms at maturity

Class 2 – Yearling colt, filly or gelding to exceed 133cms at maturity.

Class 3 – 2 or 3 year old filly or gelding not to exceed 133cms at maturity (include 2 or 3 year old colts if Class 5 not being held)

Class 4 – 2 or 3 year old filly or gelding to exceed 133cms at maturity (include 2 or 3 year old colts if Class 5 not being held)

Class 5 – 2 or 3 year old colt any height

Class 6 – Brood mare 4 years old or over, in foal for the current year or with foal at foot.

Class 7 – Stallion 4 years old or over

Class 8 – Barren mare or gelding 4 years old or over

- a) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- b) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- c) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class go forward to the final at the NPS Summer Championship show for ponies not exceeding 153cms at maturity. Qualification may go no lower than third place.
- d) Classes may be amalgamated
- e) Foals not eligible for the Final
- f) If not running a separate home-produced section, shows may choose to incorporate a home-produced qualifier within these classes and the qualification will be awarded to the highest placed home-produced competitor who must wear a white armband.

**Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

## ***K – RULES FOR BRITISH RIDING PONY IN HAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

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### **3. Show Pony Home Produced In Hand National Championship**

**SP-HPIH**

#### **The NPS British Riding Pony (Show Pony & Show Hunter Pony) Home Produced In Hand National Championship.**

- a) Youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings, not to exceed 148 cms at maturity (Show Pony) or 153cms at maturity (Show Hunter Pony), registered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, **Supplementary** Appendix, International or Sports Category section of the BRPSB; the GSB, the AHSB, the AASB or registered in the main body of their respective Mountain & Moorland stud books. Part-Breds are not eligible **unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony sections listed above.**

Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion (see also section A 2.12).

Please see the definition of Home Produced in section A 3.6.

Please enter this class in the spirit it is intended. Competitors who contravene the above will be disqualified.

**Five** classes as follows (classes may be amalgamated) or run within the British Riding Pony (Show Pony) and British Riding Pony (Show Hunter Pony) Open in hand qualifiers. :

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Class 1 | Show Pony Yearling colt, filly or gelding (not to exceed 148cm at maturity)        |
| Class 2 | Show Pony 2 or 3 year old colt, filly or gelding (not to exceed 148cm at maturity) |
| Class 3 | Show Pony 4 years old & over stallion, mare or gelding (not to exceed 148cm)       |
| Class 4 | Show Hunter Pony Youngstock (not to exceed 153cm at maturity)                      |
| Class 5 | Show Hunter Pony 4 years & over stallion, mare or gelding (not to exceed 153cm)    |

- b) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e) Winners of Classes 1-3 (Show Pony) would be eligible to go forward to the Show Pony Silver Medal Championship if this is being run. Winners of Classes 4-5 (Show Hunter Pony) would be eligible to go forward to the Show Hunter Pony Silver Medal Championship if this is being run.

**Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

**L. RULES FOR HOME PRODUCED RIDDEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1. Home Produced Ridden National Championship**

**O-HPR**

**The NPS/WTJ INSURANCE BROKERS LTD Home Produced Ridden National Championship**

- a) This championship is for Home Produced ridden stallions, mares and geldings.

Please see the definition of Home Produced in section A 3.6.

Please enter this class in the spirit it is intended. Competitors who contravene the above will be disqualified.

Qualifying rounds for this competition are run in conjunction with other NPS open ridden classes. Riders of eligible ponies must wear a white arm band to indicate their Home Produced status.

This competition is run in conjunction with the following NPS competitions:

M&M Open Ridden National Championship	MM-OR
M&M Junior Ridden National Championship	MM-JR
M&M First Ridden National Championship	MM-FR
M&M Leading Rein National Championship	MM-LR
Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Ridden National Championship	SP-R
Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony First Ridden National Championship	SP-FR
Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Leading Rein National Championship	SP-LR

Ponies to comply with the rules for the class originally entered.

- b) Rider's age to comply with the rules of the class originally entered.
- c) The owner need not be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d) The highest placed pony in each class, owned by an NPS member and ridden by a person wearing a white arm band qualifies for the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and ridden by a person wearing a white arm band, receives the qualification. Qualification may go right down the line.

**2. The NPS M&M and BRP Amateur Ridden National Championship**

**O-AM**

- a. Stallions, mares and geldings four years old and over registered in any of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register; the GSB; the AHSB; the AASB, or registered in the main body of their respective M&M Stud Book. Part bred are not eligible unless over stamped into one of the British Riding Pony studbook sections or the Ridden Register.

An amateur is a person who does not derive their main income from working with horses/ponies. You are NOT an Amateur if :-

- You derive **or have derived your main remuneration (monetary or otherwise)** from working with horses or ponies either as a self-employed person or as an employee, **within the last 5 years**. This does not include the suppliers of ancillary services such as farriers, vets, therapists and office administration staff etc. **The Trustees reserve the right to reclassify the Exhibitor's amateur status. Please contact the office for any reclassification queries.**
- You engage in breeding, livery, buying, selling or dealing in a commercial capacity. **(Breeding is defined as a commercial enterprise which includes publicly standing stallions and/or breeding 5 or more foals a year)**
- Receive remuneration for employment in the connection with horses in racing, showing, livery or riding school.
- Show a horse/pony owned or sponsored by a company or commercial firm, or acts as a Brand Ambassador.
- The horse/pony is stabled in a professional show producer's yard during the current season.
- You may keep your horse or pony at part livery or DIY Livery as long as the owner of the yard does not fall under the definition of Professional Show Producer and you may receive lessons / training in either a clinic or one to one basis.
- **The horse/pony cannot have been attended inside or outside of the ring, by a Professional, within the current year.**
- The definition of a Professional Show Producer is a person who derives income from keeping and training horses and ponies for the show ring even if this is not their sole or main source of income.

Classes as follows: (please note classes may be amalgamated)

Class 1- M&M – Small Breeds

Class 2- M&M – Large Breeds

Class 3 – British Riding Ponies not exceeding 133cms

Class 4 – British Riding Ponies exc 133cms but not exceeding 153cms

- b. Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c. Both owner and rider must be amateurs under these rules.
- d. The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- e. The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- f. A short freestyle show will be required at the final.
- g. To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- h. A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.

**Judge Required: RPB/HPB or MM**

### **3. The Part Bred Ridden & In Hand National Championship**

**O-PBR**

#### **The NPS/FAULCONBRIDGE Part Bred Ridden National Championship**

- a. Stallions, mares and geldings Four years old and over. .

Class 1- Part Bred Arab. Horse/pony to be registered in the partbred or anglo arab section of the Arab Horse Society with a minimum of 12.5% Arab blood.

Class 2- Part Bred M&M. Horse/pony to be registered in the partbred section of one of the M&M studbooks with a minimum of 12.5% of that breed blood.

- b. Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c. The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can qualify for the final.
- d. The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place.
- e. Leading Rein and First Ridden ponies are not eligible.
- f. To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- g. A minimum of 6 ponies must be stripped in qualifying rounds. All ponies must be stripped in the NPS Final.
- h. Horses/ponies may be shown plaited or unplaited to suit type.

#### **Judge Required: RPB/HPB or MM.**

For the Part bred Arab class, the Judge may be on the AHS panel. If a Part Bred M&M class is run that is restricted to one breed only, a Judge from that breed society panel may be used.

### **4. The NPS/FAULCONBRIDGE Part Bred In Hand National Championship**

**O-PBIH**

- a. Horse/pony of any age, excluding foals.

Class 1- Part Bred Arab. Horse/pony to be registered in the partbred or anglo arab section of the Arab Horse Society with a minimum of 12.5% Arab blood.

Class 2- Part Bred M&M. Horse/pony to be registered in the partbred section of one of the M&M studbooks with a minimum of 12.5% of that breed blood.

- b. Handler any age except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2)
- c. Horses/ponies may be shown plaited or unplaited to suit type.

#### **Judge Required: RPB/HPB or MM.**

For the Part bred Arab class, the Judge may be on the AHS panel. If a Part Bred M&M class is run that is restricted to one breed only, a Judge from that breed society panel may be used.

**5. Hack and Riding Horse In Hand Supreme Championship**

**H-IH**

**The NPS/ MR & MRS ROBERTS Ottergayle Hack and Riding Horse In Hand Supreme Championship**

- a) Youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings, no specific registration criteria. Qualifying rounds may be affiliated to the NPS or the British Show Horse Association.

Classes (to be defined by the affiliating show) including the following:

Class 1 – Hacks four years old and over, stallions, mares and geldings

Class 2 – Hacks three years old and under, colts fillies and geldings

Class 3 – Riding Horses four years old and over, stallions and mares and geldings

Class 4 – Riding Horses three years and under, colts, fillies and geldings.

(N.B. At the final there may be separate classes for yearlings if there are sufficient entries)

- b) Handler any age except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be a NPS member for the horse to enter this competition, to qualify or to enter the final.
- d) The first placed in each class will qualify for the final at the NPS Summer Championship show. Qualification may go no lower than third place. Foals are excluded from qualifying.

**Judge Required: Judge must be on the BSHA Panel or RPB/HPB**

**6. Working Hunter Pony Training Stakes Competition (M&M & Plaited)**

**O-TSWHP**

**The NPS/ Working Hunter Pony Training Stakes Summer National Championship**

- a) Open to mares, geldings and stallions four year old and over, in possession of an equine passport but no specific registration or breed society criteria. Plaited ponies to a maximum of 158cm.
- b) These classes are designed to encourage the pony/rider to perform stylishly.
  - Class 1 – Height of fences 45cms to 55cms
  - Class 2 – Height of fences 55cms to 70cms
  - Class 3 – Height of fences 70cms to 85cms
  - Class 4 – Height of fences 85cms to 100cms

**Method of Judging**

- c) Ponies will enter the ring individually and jump a course designed to produce a maximum of 10 jumping efforts.
- d) Each jumping effort will be marked out of 5, taking into account breed type.
- e) 5 penalties will be incurred for each pole down or run out. Three refusals in total around the course will result in elimination. (A maximum of 50 marks will be awarded for a clear round).
- f) Fall of pony or rider will result in elimination.
- g) There will be no mark awarded for conformation but a mark of 20 will be awarded for overall impression at the completion of each round.
- h) In the event of a tie the overall impression mark will determine the final placings.
- i) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2). Riders may only ride one pony in each class.
- j) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- k) The highest placed pony, owned by an NPS member, in each class goes forward to the final. Where this pony has already qualified the pony standing next in line, which is owned by an NPS member and has not already qualified, receives the qualification. Qualification goes no lower than third place

**Judge required: Either MM WHP or PWHP Panel**



**7. Unregistered Pony Competition**

**PUBS**

**The NPS PUBS (Ponies of Unregistered Breeding) Ridden & In Hand Pony Championship**

- a) Open to mares and geldings 148cm or under, 4 years old and over (**for ridden classes**) Must possess a basic ID passport.
- b) These classes are designed to offer an opportunity for ponies of all types but without a recorded pedigree, to compete in an NPS series.
- c) Ponies with breeding recorded in their passport, who are therefore eligible to compete in other NPS classes, are not eligible.

Method of Judging

- d) Two classes as follows:  
Class 1: In Hand      Class 2: Ridden
- e) **First Ridden and Lead Rein ponies to be brought into the centre of the ring when class cantering as a group**
- f) Ponies to be judged as a practical family all round pony displaying good manners, correct way of going and functional conformation
- g) Rider any age. Riders may only ride one pony in each class.
- h) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- i) The owner does not have to be a NPS member for the pony to enter this competition, to qualify or to enter the final.

**Judge required: Any judge**

**M. RULES FOR SILVER MEDAL ROSETTE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1. M&M In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship**

**SM-MMIH**

**The NPS/BLACKERTOR & SHARPTOR STUDS M&M In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship**

- a) This championship is for youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book, which have come forward from an NPS affiliated M&M In Hand class at the qualifying show. Foals are not eligible for this Championship, **except at winter Foal Shows, where the winner will qualify for the Yearling Final at the Summer Championships**
- b) If there is not a breed championship, all 1st placed prize winners are eligible to go forward to the silver medal championship.
- c) Where classes are amalgamated at, the highest placed of each breed may go forward to the Championship at that Show.
- d) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- e) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter the championship but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can receive the Silver Medal Rosette and qualify for the final at which a Gold Medal is presented. **The owner's membership card must be presented in the ring** (see section A 1.3 a)
- f) The Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS member the Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Reserve if it is owned by an NPS member. Silver Medal Rosette to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member.

The qualification goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member and not already qualified for the M&M In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship final. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS Member or has already qualified then the qualification goes to the Reserve Champion, if owned by an NPS member, unless has already qualified. The silver medal rosette is still awarded to the Champion. Qualification to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member. At Breed Shows owners do not have to be NPS members to receive the Silver Medal or qualify for the final.

A pony can only attend one M&M In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship final in a season either at NPS Summer Championships at Malvern or at NPS Scotland Championships at Scone Palace. A pony may only take the qualification for the Silver Medal Final once in a season.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**2. M&M Ridden Silver Medal Rosette Championship**

**SM-MMR**

**The NPS/NIPNA DALES PONY STUD M&M Ridden Silver Medal Rosette Championship**

- a) This Championship is for stallions, mares and geldings, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book, which have come forward from an NPS affiliated M&M Ridden class at the qualifying show (with the exception of Working Hunter Pony, First Ridden and Leading Rein classes).
- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2)
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter the championship but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can receive the Silver Medal Rosette and qualify for the final at which a Gold Medal is presented. **The owner's membership card must be presented in the ring** (see section A 1.3)
- d) The Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS member the Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Reserve if it is owned by an NPS member. Silver Medal Rosette to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member.

The qualification goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member and not already qualified for the M&M Ridden Silver Medal Rosette Championship final. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS Member or has already qualified then the qualification goes to the Reserve Champion, if owned by an NPS member, unless he has already qualified. The silver medal rosette is still awarded to the Champion. Qualification to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member. At Breed Shows owners do not have to be NPS members to receive the Silver Medal or qualify for the final.

A pony can only attend one M&M Ridden Silver Medal Rosette Championship final in a season either at NPS Summer Championships at Malvern or at NPS Scotland Championships at Scone Palace. A pony may only take the qualification for the Silver Medal Final once in a season.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

### 3. Show Pony In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship

SM-SPIH

#### The NPS/NPS AREA 20 British Riding Pony (Show Pony) In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship

- a) This Championship is for youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings, not exceeding 148cms at maturity, registered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB; the GSB, the AHSB, the AASB or registered in the main body of their respective Mountain & Moorland stud books, which have come forward from an NPS affiliated British Riding Pony (Show Pony) In Hand class at the qualifying show. Foals are not eligible for this Championship. **except at winter Foal Shows, where the winner will qualify for the Yearling Final at the Summer Championships** Part bred's are not eligible unless entered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB.

Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion (see section A 2.12).

- b) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter the championship but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can receive the Silver Medal Rosette and qualify for the final which at which a Gold Medal is presented. **The owner's membership card must be presented in the ring** (see section A 1.3 a))
- d) The Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS member the Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Reserve if it is owned by an NPS member. Silver Medal Rosette to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member.

The qualification goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member and not already qualified for the Show Pony In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship final. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS Member or has already qualified then the qualification goes to the Reserve Champion, if owned by an NPS member, unless he has already qualified. The silver medal rosette is still awarded to the Champion. Qualification to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member.

Qualifiers go forward to the Show Pony In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship final at the NPS Summer Championship show.

**Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

**4. Show Hunter Pony In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship**

**SM-HPIH**

**The NPS/NPS AREA 4 British Riding Pony (Show Hunter Pony) In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship**

- a) This Championship is for youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings, not exceeding 153cms at maturity, registered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB; the GSB, the AHSB, the AASB or registered in the main body of their respective Mountain & Moorland stud books, which have come forward from an NPS affiliated British Riding Pony (Show Hunter Pony) in hand class at the qualifying show. Foals are not eligible for this Championship. **except at winter Foal Shows, where the winner will qualify for the Yearling Final at the Summer Championships** Part bred are not eligible unless entered in the NPS British Riding Pony Stud Book, Register, Appendix, International or Sports Pony section of the BRPSB.

Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion (see section A 2.12).

- b) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2)
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter the championship but only ponies owned by NPS Qualifying or Life members can receive the Silver Medal Rosette and qualify for the final at which a Gold Medal is presented. **The owner's membership card must be presented in the ring** (see section A 1.3 a)
- d) The Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS member the Silver Medal Rosette goes to the Reserve if it is owned by an NPS member. Silver Medal Rosette to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member.

The qualification goes to the Champion, if owned by an NPS member and not already qualified for the Show Hunter Pony In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship final. If the Champion is not owned by an NPS Member or has already qualified then the qualification goes to the Reserve Champion, if owned by an NPS member, unless he has already qualified. The silver medal rosette is still awarded to the Champion. Qualification to go no lower than first Reserve (third) provided it is owned by an NPS Member.

Qualifiers go forward to the Show Hunter Pony In Hand Silver Medal Rosette Championship final at the NPS Summer Championship show.

**Judge required: RPB/HPB Panel**

## **N. RULES FOR AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **1. Area Final Freestyle to Music**

**O-AF**

#### **The NPS/ASSENDONS Area Final Freestyle to Music**

- a) This championship is for ridden stallions, mares and geldings, who have qualified at selected NPS Area shows.
- b) Each Area will nominate a show where the NPS/Ringside M&M Open Ridden Champion & **Reserve** and the NPS/ Open Ridden Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Champion & Reserve will qualify for the Final.
- c) In addition, the Champion and Reserve from the NPS Dressage Finals will qualify for the Final.
- d) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- e) If the Champion and/or Reserve Champion have already qualified then the qualification may go to the Second Reserve, but no lower.
- f) At the Final at the NPS Summer Championship, all qualified ponies will be pre-judged together.
- g) The pre judging will consist of a conformation phase, and a ride phase where competitors will be asked for a show of their choice. The judge will take into account the content, imagination and correct execution of the movements.
- h) The top six will be invited to the Evening Performance where they will give an individual freestyle performance to music, for a maximum of 2 minutes.
- i) Each competitor must supply a copy of their freestyle music in an appropriate format, which must be handed in one hour before the commencement of the evening performance.

**Judge required: Judge may or may not be an NPS judge, but must be on a recognised horse/pony panel**

**O. RULES FOR WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1. M&M Open Ridden Winter Championship**

**WMM-OR**

**The NPS/CE FULLER & SON M&M Open Ridden Winter Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings five years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

Two classes as follows, or split at the show's discretion:

Class 1 - Small

Dartmoor

Exmoor

Shetland

Welsh A

Welsh B

Class 2 - Large

Connemara

Dales

Fell

Highland

New Forest

Welsh C

Welsh D

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) In each class the three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- e) Ponies may be stripped at the judge's discretion.
- f) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- g) Winnings in the NPS Winter competitions will not debar novice ponies from entering NPS M&M Novice Ridden competitions in the following summer.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**This section will not run in 2027.**

**2. M&M Confined Novice Ridden Winter Championship**

**WMM-NR**

**The NPS/CASTLEFORD STUD M&M Confined Novice Ridden Winter Championship**

Stallions, mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

Ponies not to have won a first prize of £10 or more in any **affiliated** Ridden M&M class (excluding Leading Rein or First Ridden) before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the current season.

Two classes as follows, or split at the show's discretion:

<u>Class 1- Small</u>	<u>Class 2 - Large</u>
Dartmoor	Connemara
Exmoor	Dales
Shetland	Fell
Welsh A	Highland
Welsh B	New Forest
	Welsh C
	Welsh D

- a) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2).
- b) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- c) In each class the three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- d) Ponies must be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- e) Ponies may be stripped at the judge's discretion.
- f) Winnings in the NPS Winter competitions will not debar novice ponies from entering NPS M&M Novice Ridden competitions in the following summer.

**Judge required: MM Panel**



**3. M&M Pure Novice Ridden Winter Championship**

**WMM-PNR**

**The NPS/TH ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES M&M Pure Novice Ridden Winter Championship**

- a) Stallions, mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book.

Ponies not to have been placed first in any affiliated Ridden M&M class (excluding Leading Rein or First Ridden) before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the current season.

Two classes as follows, or split at the show's discretion:

Class 1- Small

Dartmoor

Exmoor

Shetland

Welsh A

Welsh B

Class 2 - Large

Connemara

Dales

Fell

Highland

New Forest

Welsh C

Welsh D

- b) Rider any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2)
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) In each class the three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- e) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit.
- f) Ponies may be stripped at the judge's discretion.
- g) Winnings in the NPS Winter competitions will not debar novice ponies from entering NPS M&M Novice Ridden competitions in the following summer.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**This section will not run in 2027.**

**4. M&M Leading Rein Winter Championship –  
The NPS M&M Leading Rein Winter Championship**

**WMM-LR**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Not exceeding 122cms.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year. (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) The three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- e) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- f) Ponies will not be stripped.
- g) Handles on saddles are permitted

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**This section will not run in 2027.**

**5. M&M Novice Leading Rein Winter Championship**

**WMM-NLR**

**The NPS/WILLIAMS & NASH MEMORIAL M&M Novice Leading Rein Winter Championship  
Kindly sponsored by NPS AREA 25**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Not exceeding 122cms.  
Pony not to have won a first prize in any affiliated Leading Rein class before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the current season.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year. (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) The three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- e) Ponies must be shown in a snaffle bit. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- f) Ponies will not be stripped.
- g) Handles on saddles are permitted.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**Shows running winter qualifiers in 2025/2026 may run amalgamated open and novice first ridden qualifiers and may award both qualifications within one class.**

**6. M&M First Ridden Winter Championship**

**WMM-FR**

**The NPS/ M&M First Ridden Winter Championship**

- a) Mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Not exceeding 128cms.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.(see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) The three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- e) Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- f) Ponies will not be stripped.
- g) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**This section will not run in 2027.**

**7. M&M Novice First Ridden Winter Championship**

**WMM-NFR**

**The NPS/AREA 25 M&M Novice First Ridden Winter Championship**

Mares and geldings four years old and over, registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Not exceeding 128cms.

- a) Pony not to have won a first prize in any affiliated First Ridden class before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the current season.
- b) Rider not to have attained their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year (see rules in section A 3.2).
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) The three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.
- e) Ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.
- f) Ponies may not be ridden side saddle.
- g) Ponies not to be cantered except in their individual show.
- h) Ponies will not be stripped.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**Shows running winter qualifiers in 2025/2026 may run amalgamated open and novice first ridden qualifiers and may award both qualifications within one class.**

**8. M&M In Hand Winter Championship -**

**WMM-IH**

**The NPS/KILNBROOK STUD M&M In Hand Winter Championship**

- a) Youngstock, stallions, mares and geldings registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society stud book. Four classes as follows (may be amalgamated into two classes, either spilt by age or by Breed size (large and small)):

Class 1 Yearlings, 2 and 3 year ponies

Dartmoor  
Exmoor  
Shetland  
Welsh A  
Welsh B

Class 2 Ponies 4 years old & over

Dartmoor  
Exmoor  
Shetland  
Welsh A  
Welsh B

Class 3 Yearlings, 2 and 3 year ponies

Connemara  
Dales  
Fell  
Highland  
New Forest  
Welsh C  
Welsh D

Class 4 Ponies 4 years old & over

Connemara  
Dales  
Fell  
Highland  
New Forest  
Welsh C  
Welsh D

- b) Handler any age, except stallions (see rules in section A 3.2). Foals are not eligible at the Final. At Foal Shows, the first three ponies in each class will qualify for the Yearling Final at the Spring Festival
- c) The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.
- d) In each class the three highest placed ponies which have not already qualified, within the first six places, will qualify for the final at the NPS Spring Festival.

**Judge required: MM Panel**

**P. RULES FOR YOUNG RIDER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1. Young Rider Championship**

**YRCH**

**The NPS/FIONA CORK SADDLES Young Rider Championship**

- a) This championship is for riders up to the age of 25.

Qualifying rounds for this competition are run in conjunction with the following NPS ridden Winter and Summer competitions

M&M Open Ridden National Championship	MM-OR
M&M Young Ridden Pony National Championship	MM-4/5/6R
M&M Intermediate Ridden National Championship	MM-IR
M&M Novice Ridden National Championship	MM-NR
M&M Junior Ridden National Championship	MM-JR
M&M First Ridden National Championship	MM-FR
M&M Novice First Ridden National Championship	MM-NFR
Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Ridden National Championship	SP-R
Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony First Ridden National Championship	SP-FR
Show Pony/Show Hunter Pony Novice Ridden National Championship	SP-NR
M&M and Plaited Amateur Ridden National Championship	O-AM

M&M Open Ridden Winter Championship	WMM-OR
M&M Novice Ridden Winter Championship	WMM-NR
M&M Pure Novice Ridden Winter Championship	WMM-PNR
M&M First Ridden Winter Championship	WMM-FR
M&M Novice First Ridden Winter Championship	WMM-NFR

Riders **MUST** ride the pony on which they Qualify.

- b) Rider's age to comply with the rules of the class originally entered but only riders up to age 25 are eligible for this competition.
- c) Owners/Riders do not need to be NPS members to enter this competition or to qualify but Owners must be Qualifying or Life members in order for the pony and rider to enter the final.
- d) The judge of each of the above classes will sign the qualification card of one junior rider in the class if the judge feels it is deserved. The qualification may be passed right down the line.
- e) The final is held at the NPS Summer Championships. At the final there will be the following classes, ages as at 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the final -
- Class 1 – First Ridden (Riders in this class may NOT compete in Class 2)
- Class 2 - Riders aged 10 -13 years
- Class 3 - Riders aged 14 – 18 years
- Class 4 - Riders aged 19 – 25 years.
- f) Ponies will not be stripped at the Final.
- g) To be shown in any suitable bridle subject to rules 2.6.j, k & l.

## **Q. RULES FOR PERFORMANCE CLASSES**

### **1. NPS/ANTHONY EVANS Arena Eventing Challenge**

**AE**

This competition assesses the potential for a pony to be a competitive eventing pony either currently or in the future.

Open to mares, geldings and stallions four year old and over, maximum height 158cm, in possession of an equine passport but no specific registration or breed society criteria. Ponies' manes may be plaited at competitor discretion. Ponies may be measured at the judge's discretion.

- The NPS strongly recommends body protectors are worn in all NPS jumping competitions especially over fixed obstacles.
- In the interests of safety, long hair should be plaited or secured appropriately in a hairnet.
- It is strongly recommended that a jockey skull cap is worn with no fixed peak or peak type extensions. A removable hat cover with a light flexible peak may be used if required.

#### **Rules for the Final**

Classes at the Final will be split into **three** sections:

- A. Ponies who have qualified in 60cm to 70cm qualifying rounds. Maximum height of fences at the final 65cm. Rider not to have attained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.
- B. Ponies who have qualified in 60cm to 70cm qualifying rounds. Maximum height of fences at the final 70cm
- C. Ponies who have qualified in 75cm to 90cm qualifying rounds. Maximum height of fences at the final 90cm

Ponies will have qualified at a series of arena eventing competitions by achieving a top ten placing. All qualifying events will be listed on the [www.nationalponysociety.com](http://www.nationalponysociety.com) website. The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying, Performance or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.

#### **Marks**

There will be 50 marks available from each judge, with a total of 100 marks available in total.

Section I	Flatwork	20 Marks (5 each for walk, trot, canter and gallop)
Section II	Jumping	20 Marks (10 each for show jumping and cross country)
Section III	Suitability	10 Marks
	Total	50 Marks

#### **Section I – Flatwork**

Enter the arena and the bell will signal the start of your round. Maximum time allowed of 2 minutes and 30 seconds. Marks are awarded for each pace not accuracy of movements.

Compulsory movements include:

Medium walk (minimum of 15 metres)

Working trot left, to include one 20m diameter circle

Working trot right, to include one 20m diameter circle

Working canter left, to include one 20m diameter circle

Working canter right, to include one 20m diameter circle

Continue straight into the jumping phase

## **Section II – Jumping**

There will be 6-8 show jumping fences including one double, followed immediately by 10-12 cross country fences that may include water and steps.

2 marks will be deducted for a knock down and 4 marks will be deducted for a refusal. Three refusals at the same fence or four refusals around the course will result in Elimination.

Marks will be awarded for fluency, jumping ability and technique.

On jumping the final cross country fence, please demonstrate approximately 20m of gallop before pulling up and leaving the arena in walk.

## **Section III – Suitability**

The judges will be looking for a pony that demonstrates the quality, athleticism and ridability to succeed in eventing and performance.

In the event of a tie, the Jumping phase mark will take precedence followed by the Suitability mark.

**Judge required: WHP or PWHP Panel or BE accredited coach**

### Guidelines for Qualifying rounds

Qualifying rounds can be run on the back of existing arena eventing competitions. Qualification will be awarded to all ponies placing in the top ten. The owner does not have to be an NPS member for the pony to enter this competition or to qualify but the owner must be a Qualifying, Performance or Life member of the NPS to enter the final.

It is advised that Qualifiers should be run as a two phase competition, which can be run in either an indoor arena, on an outdoor surface or in a grass arena. Competitors will jump a course of show jumps immediately followed by a course of cross country style fences. There should be a maximum of 8 show jumping fences (one double is permitted) and a maximum of 12 cross country style fences.

The aim of the competition is to achieve the fewest penalties from the total of three components –

- Show Jumping Penalties
- Cross Country Penalties
- Speed (or as close to the optimum time as possible)
- Suggested speed 340m/m for 70 cm and under and 360m/m for 80 & 90cm qualifiers. The cross country section will be timed.

Penalties:

Knockdown	2 penalties
Refusal	4 penalties
Each commenced second over the optimum time	1 penalty
Each commenced second in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time	1 penalty
Third refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle	Elimination
Four refusals around the course	Elimination

In the event of a tie, the winner will be the closest to, but under the optimum time.

## **2. NPS Supreme Dressage Championships**

**ALL QUERIES** on NPS Dressage please see the website or contact Mrs Angela Kember on 07906 451630 or [angela.kember@icloud.com](mailto:angela.kember@icloud.com)

1. These NPS Dressage finals and where possible, qualifiers, are run in accordance and or under British Dressage Rules and regulations.
2. It is the responsibility of riders and owners to ensure their ponies/horses are eligible for entry to both the qualifying rounds and the Final prior to making an entry.
3. In order to be eligible for this competition, ponies must be registered in their respective stud book. Ponies bred overseas must be registered in stud books recognised by UK equivalent stud books. Including their part bred registers.
4. Owner or Rider must be or become members of the National Pony Society for 2026 in order to compete at the Final (excluding Associate Judge or Breeder members).
5. The final will consist of both Preliminary and Novice finals with classes split at the discretion of the organisers.
6. Ponies with any number of British Dressage points are eligible for this competition.
7. All ponies must be at least 4 years old in order to compete at a qualifying round.
8. All ponies must be ridden at the Final by the rider that qualified them in the qualifying round. No changes or substitutions are permitted under any circumstances.
9. **Ponies to achieve a minimum qualifying score of 59% at any NPS affiliated dressage competition**
10. Running of the Final: –
  - a. Each arena will have an individual winner for each class.
  - b. Each class will be judged by a single judge where possible
  - c. The winners of each individual class held at the Finals are invited to perform a freestyle 4min test to music, within a 20 x 40 arena to determine the overall Supreme Champion.
11. NPS Supreme Dressage Freestyle Ride-Off will be judged to Music – competitors are to provide their own labeled CD's with instructions or make their choice with the commentators on the day. (Please note we are unable to play re-writable CD's)
12. Information on Judges selected for the Final are printed in the front of the schedule. Competitors must take responsibility for their entries and may not compete if they are related to the judges, they or their ponies/horses have been taught, or their ponies/horses owned/bred by the judges or had any financial dealings - livery, business, etc with the chosen judges within the past five years. Details should be sent at time of entry, if any connections with any of these said judges- re-arranging the judges may be possible.
13. Training Devices with headgear/earphones may only be used in exercise areas. Use in competition arenas is prohibited and will result in the immediate disqualification of that competitor.
14. Tests may only be commanded in the 12 & Under Mini Final and/or according to BD Para-Dressage Rules - a photocopy of a LEA Statement of Need or official Dyslexia/Dyspraxia assessment is to be provided with the entry form.



## R. WELFARE & SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

### 1. WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE

The Member Bodies of the Showing Council have adopted a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses & Ponies at Shows and Events.

The document has been produced to provide advice and support to members, competitors, show organisers, stewards, judges, volunteer assistants and spectators.

The full Code of Practice can be downloaded from the NPS website Education & Welfare section.  
[www.nationalponysociety.com/codeofpractice](http://www.nationalponysociety.com/codeofpractice)

### 2. SAFEGUARDING

The NPS has adopted the policies and procedures of the British Equestrian Federation relating to safeguarding. The NPS places the highest priority on the safety and enjoyment of children, young people **and adults at risk** participating in equestrian sport and is committed to promoting the highest possible standard of care across the whole Society. **Everyone who is involved in equestrianism shares the responsibility for safeguarding.**

Head over to the BEF's dedicated safeguarding web hub, Safe to play, (<https://equestrian.safetoplay.co.uk/>) where you'll find a host of videos, advice, FAQs and top tips - and importantly how to report a concern, whatever your role in equestrianism

## National Pony Society Judge Mentoring Scheme



Are you looking to becoming a NPS judge, but feel you more experience? Then why not apply for the NPS judge mentoring scheme.

Interested members are invited to apply for the scheme and, once accepted, will be paired with a 'Mentoring Judge' who will offer support, advice and encouragement.

Trainees will accompany their mentor in the ring and at other events expanding their knowledge and gaining valuable ring experience to aid the development of their judging skills and with a view to progressing to the NPS Judges Assessment in the future.



Contact the NPS office at [admin@nationalponysociety.com](mailto:admin@nationalponysociety.com)

for more information.



# **NPS 23<sup>rd</sup> Spring Festival**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Royal Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire**

**Including:**

NPS/Supreme Products HOYS M&M Ridden Pony of the Year & HOYS Junior Qualifiers, P(UK) RIHS Young Rider & Amateur M&M Ridden Qualifiers, NPS/Baileys Horse Feeds RIHS M&M WHP Qualifiers, BSPS RIHS WHP & RIHS Pretty Polly Qualifiers  
NPS Summer Qualifiers & All NPS Winter Finals  
& unaffiliated performance classes.

## **NPS Arena Eventing Finals**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Pickering Grange, Leicestershire, LE671EZ**

**With last chance qualifiers.**

## **NPS Dressage Finals**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Bury Farm Equestrian, Buckinghamshire LU7 9BT**

## **NPS 119<sup>th</sup> Summer Championship Show**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

**Royal Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire**

Featuring a selection of all Pony and Junior HOYS Qualifiers and the Price Family In Hand Championship Qualifier  
NPS National Championship Finals  
Junior Unaffiliated Ring

## **NPS Great British In Hand Show & NPS Autumn Show**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

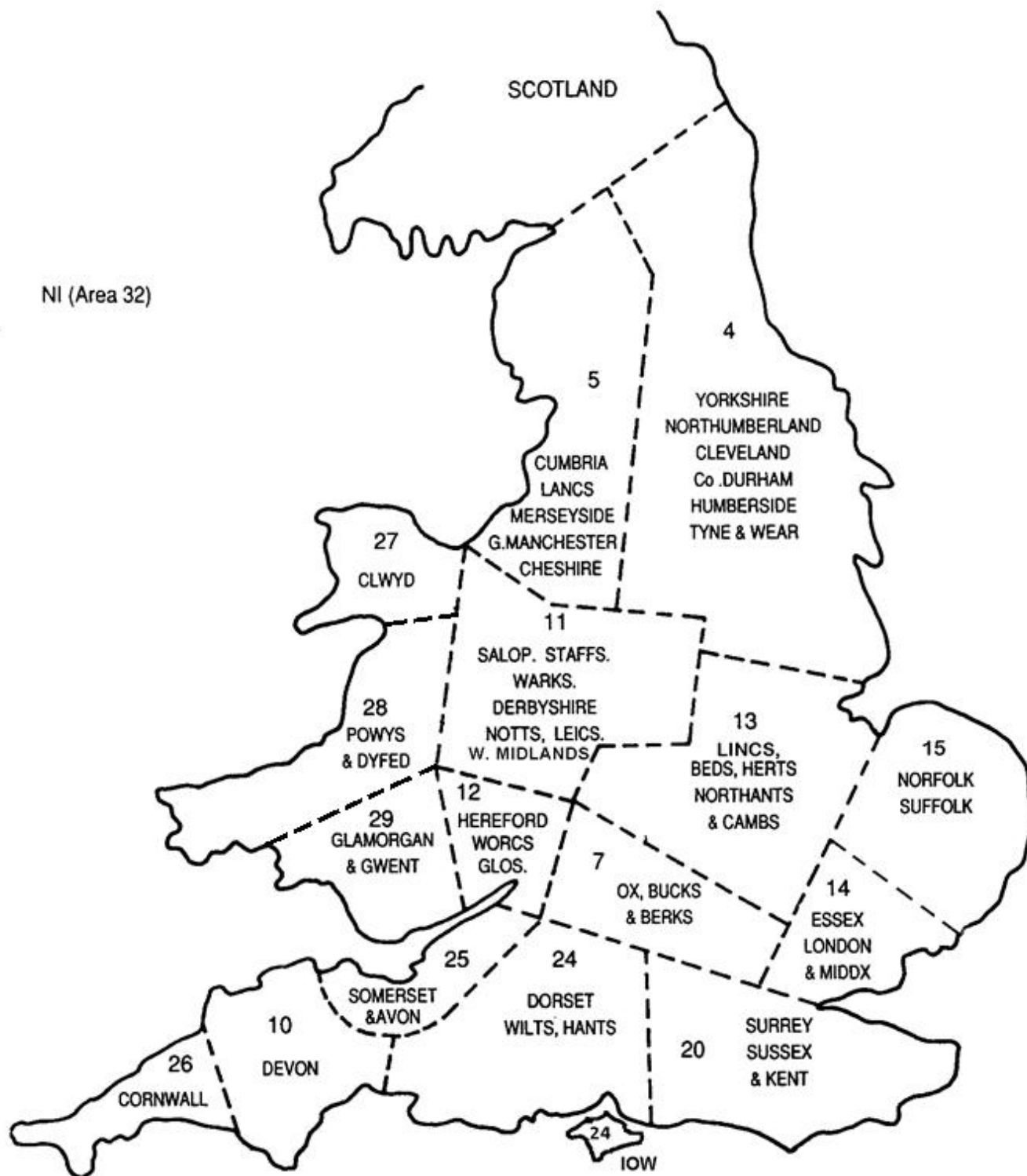
**Vale View Equestrian Centre, Leicestershire**

Featuring the NPS Supreme Pony/ Horse of the Year & the Price Family HOYS qualifier Semi Final, plus NPS RIHS M&M WHP Qualifiers

**Schedules will be available to download from the National Pony Society website or  
please send an A5 SAE to:**

**National Pony Society  
RASE Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG**

## THE NATIONAL PONY SOCIETY AREAS



Note: All Areas shown are approximate – please allow for artistic licence.  
Geographical apportioning is regularly reviewed and any changes  
will be published in the NEWSLETTER.

	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Chairman's Address</b>	<b>Area Secretary</b>
<b>NPS Scotland</b>	Mrs Fiona Roebuck blair.secretary@npsscotland.co.uk 07970 731633	South Strathy, Aberuthven, Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1HL	Mrs Alicia Hay secretary@npsscotland.co.uk 07970 816416
<b>Area 4</b>	Mrs Christine Duke chris.duke008@btinternet.com 01833 627008	Stable Cottage, Little Hutton Farm, Caldwell, Richmond, N Yorks, DL11 7QL	Mrs Jeanette Nielson dbnielson@aol.com 01943 864083
<b>Area 5</b>	Mr Robin Avery Averyrobin@worldonline.co.uk 01772 614572	Drumacre Hall Stud, Drumacre Lane West, Longton, Preston, Lancs, PR4 4SB	Miss Deborah Chadwick hedgethorpe@btinternet.com 01772 601013
<b>Area 7</b>	Ms Alison Jones Alison_jones5@sky.com 07866 892187	Cloud Cottage, 89 Aylesbury Road, Birtton, Bucks, HP22 5BT	TBC
<b>Area 10</b>	Ms Catherine Evans Kilnbrookstud@outlook.com 07789 503470	Whitebarrow Farm, St Neot, Cornwall, PL14 6QH	Mr Paul Davis pdavis536@hotmail.com 07739 011569
<b>Area XI</b>	Mr Rodger James Redgate4c@Ininternet.co.uk 01889 500518	Vaughan Farm, Lea Lane, Newton, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 3NP	Mrs Jayne McAuliffe jaynmc81@hotmail.com 01283 736719
<b>Area 12</b>	Mrs Liz Launder laundere@gmail.com 07950 119724	Gyfylchau, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0EY	Mrs Natasha Taylor tashmail2001@yahoo.com 07568 566364
<b>Area 13</b>	Mrs Katie Marriott-Payne katy54@btopenworld.com 07771 801023	13 Hardwick Village, Nr Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN9 5AL	Mrs Lynette Bates lynette@alphacontracts.co.uk
<b>Area 14</b>	Mrs Carolyn Whiteley carolynwhiteley@me.com 01376 322784	No 6, The Firs, New Road, Rayne, Braintree, Essex, CM77 6TG	Mrs Abigail Thorogood abitaylor55@hotmail.com 07834 173193
<b>Area 15</b>	Mr Melvyn Chadwick melvynchadwick@hotmail.co.uk 07730 309738	Flat 2, 52 High Street, Needham Market, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8AP	Mr Connor McCormick connor.brookvale@btinternet.com
<b>Area 20</b>	Mrs Sara Hird sarahird@hotmail.com 07989 588095	Nursery House, Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst, Kent, TN17 2RD	Miss Mandy Godden mandy.godden@honeybarrett. co.uk 07712 654018
<b>Area 24</b>	Mrs Anna Tomlinson area24chairman@gmail.com 07803 901178	Punch Hill Farm, Melbury Abbas, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0EA	Ms Ronnie Tarr nps24secretary@gmail.com
<b>Area 25</b>	Mrs Jackie Webb jspwebb@aol.com 07970 940905	Minstrels Farm, Withy Road, East Huntspill, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 3NW	Mrs Ann Nicholls ann@nicholls-miller.co.uk 07989 663508
<b>Area 26</b>	Mrs Natalie Lewis natalie@wessexslateandtile.co.uk 07792 889965	Shir-Spen, Gummows Shop, Newquay, Cornwall, TR8 4PP	
<b>Area 27</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Area 28</b>	Mrs Lesley Hillard Lbhillard@hotmail.co.uk 01267 234057	Tir Bwcci, Nantycaws, Carmarthen, SA32 8EU	Miss Lucinda Dargavel lucinda_dargavel@hotmail.com 07790 963 587
<b>Area 29</b>	Ms Anneli Jones annelijones@hotmail.co.uk 01495 226233	8 Heol Ddu, Gelligroes, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Gwent, NP12 2GZ	Miss Kate Williams kate@willisconstruction.co.uk 07768 608399

<b>Area 32</b>	Mr Tony Bell npsarea32@gmail.com 028 9337 8850	31 Ballywillan Road, Beltoy, Glenoe, Larne, Co Antrim, BT40 3LQ.	Mrs Jenny Reid jenny.reid143@hotmail.com 07921 082816
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