NPS Scotland

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NPS Scotland Championships Rules 2026

The following rules clarify areas particular to NPS Scotland qualifier shows and Championships. We also follow the Rules of the National Pony Society 2026 which can be found at www.npsscotland.co.uk

Exhibitors are deemed to be conversant with these rules.

1. All Mountain & Moorland Ponies must be registered in the main body of their respective stud book. Part bred, X registered ponies, ponies in the appendices of their main stud book and Eriskay ponies are not eligible.

2. 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.

3. A child must have attained their 12th birthday as of the 1st January in the current year to either strip or lunge pony at a NPS show, except for stallions where age will same as in the Rule Book to ride a stallion.

4. Handlers of stallions or colts must be 14 years old or over.

5. Please note NO Stallions can compete or qualify for the Junior Ridden Classes**.**

6. Handlers of ponies in In Hand classes must be at least **7 years** of age and those who are 14 years and under must wear a correctly secured skull caps/riding hat that meets the current standards.

7. All ridden ponies must be shown off the lead rein except in the specified Lead Rein Qualifier Class.

8. Cavasson nosebands are the only nosebands permitted in flat ridden class

9. Ponies competing in NPS Scotland Qualifier classes at any show, may only be ridden on the showground in the tack appropriate to the class they are competing in that day.

10. Where lunging is permitted on the showground, the use of a lunge whip 'against the horse' is not permitted.

11. **NPS Scotland Kilmannan Novice Ridden and Picton Classes**
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.

12. Whiskers are not to be trimmed for any breed. This rule is now mandatory.

13. Open Working Hunter Pony M&M Classes

NPS Scotland/Kingfisher Building Products Mountain & Moorland Open WHP Championship				
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class4
Height of Ponies	Ponies not exceeding 122cms	Ponies exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 133cms	Ponies exceeding 133cms but not exceeding 143cms	Ponies exceeding 143cms but not exceeding 148 (except for Welsh Section D and Dales for which there is no height restriction).
Min Height of Jumps	55 cms	65 cms	75 cms	85 cms
Max Height of jumps	70 cms	80 cms	90 cms	100 cms
Max. Spread of jumps	55 cms	65 cms	75 cms	85 cms

14. Shows, especially those held early in the year, may reduce the heights and spreads shown above in order to encourage riders to compete, but competitors that qualify must be aware that the jumps will be as above for the Finals at Scone Palace.
15. 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. A water tray jump will be included at the final.
16. It is not mandatory for ponies to be stripped at qualifier shows but all ponies will be stripped at the finals (Novice Ridden, Junior Ridden, Open Ridden and Working Hunter Pony)

Qualification

17. Qualification in the M&M In Hand Section may go Champion, Reserve Champion, and 1st Reserve Champion. This excludes the NPS Scotland Spring and Summer Shows where 1st and 2nd prize winners will qualify.

18. Qualification for M&M Novice, Junior, Open, WHP, Lead Rein, First Ridden and Riding pony/Hunter pony classes may go to no lower than 4th place**.**

17. Ponies may only qualify **once** for each NPS Scotland Competition Final.

18. Exhibitors that knowingly take a second qualifier for the same section **may be disqualified** from entering the final at the discretion of NPS Scotland.

19. It is the **responsibility of the exhibitor** to ensure that their jockey/handler is aware of their pony's qualification status.

20. **A Judge is not obliged to award an NPS Scotland Finals qualification if he/she feels that the pony is not of a sufficient standard.**

21. **NPS Scotland has the right to refuse entries**

Complaints

22. Firstly, complaints must be lodged **on the day of the show** by following **that** Qualifier Shows complaints procedure.

23. Complaints to NPS Scotland should follow the Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure of the NPS found in the Rule Book following link https://www.nationalponysociety.com/rule-book/ D.3. (page 33) **but addressed to NPS Scotland at secretary@npsscotland.co.uk**

24. Any complaints must be received to NPS Scotland within 14 days of the Qualifier show

Entries

21. Entries will only be accepted via the on-line entry system, Entry Master**. Paper Entries are not accepted.**

22. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to keep the qualification card safely. This is** essential to complete your entry for the Championships.

23. The OWNER of the pony must be or become a member of NPS Scotland to enter the Finals.
24. The Finals will take place at the Scone Palace International Horse Trials on Friday 28TH August 2026.

25. **Closing Dates for Entries** – NPS Scotland will announce on their website www.npsscotland.co.uk and via social media when entries open and close and **" How to submit your entry"** for 2026.