

# *The Highland Pony Society*

*Founded 1923*

## **Information for Judges**

*Judges should be conscious that the purpose of judging is to place ponies in the classes they are officiating in order of merit subject to breed requirements, conformation, and soundness.*

1. All judges must be current members of The Highland Pony Society.
2. A judge must attend a Highland Pony Society Seminar/Study Day a minimum of once every five years to ensure they are up to date and aware of all judging matters and the breed description. If a judge fails to attend, they may be removed from the Judges' Panel at the Council of Highland Pony Society's discretion.
3. A judge must stand down from the panel and inform the HPS if they are not medically, physically or mentally fit or are unable to continue judging for any reason.
4. A judge must complete and return the Annual Judges' Questionnaire within the given time frame.
5. A judge must be fully conversant with all judging and showing guidelines.
6. A judge must always check the show schedule to ensure they are able to judge the classes requested and have the schedule to hand during judging. If unable to fulfil judging duties, they should contact the show secretary well in advance of the show.
7. Judges should either accept or decline an invitation to judge within two weeks of receiving the invitation.  
  
If unable to fulfil a judging commitment, they should personally contact the Show Secretary giving their reasons and offering to find a replacement judge. A text message is not sufficient to communicate this information.
8. A judge must exercise discretion in accepting invitations to judge the same type of classes at an affiliated show within a local area more than once during a season. A local area is defined as a 25-mile radius, as the crow flies, from the showgrounds concerned.
9. A judge should not accept more than four HPS affiliated judging appointments in any one year.
10. A judge should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the expected start time of their classes and report to the Show Secretary.
11. All judges should be smartly and appropriately dressed according to the weather. Casual clothing is inappropriate and blue denim is not acceptable.

# *The Highland Pony Society*

*Founded 1923*

12. Judges must not refer to the show catalogue prior to or during judging.
13. All judges must always act in a courteous and considerate manner both inside and outside the ring and remain detached during their judging appointment.
14. When a judge officiates in HPS affiliated classes at a show, he/she or his/her immediate family must not compete or exhibit in that section.
15. Before judging, judges should familiarise themselves with the ring and inform their steward where they wish ponies to line up, change the rein etc. Ensure rosettes, qualify cards etc are all accessible for awarding at the end of the class. Issue instructions to exhibitors through the steward and always thank them at the end of the classes.
16. Judges may be accompanied in the ring only by a person or persons appointed by the show, or by one of the Society's probationer judges.
17. Judges should not converse with exhibitors, helpers or spectators prior to or during judging.
18. A judge should not accept hospitality from exhibitors e.g. staying with an exhibitor prior to the show.
19. Mobile phones should be switched off or on silent while judging.
20. A judge must not call any exhibitor by their name in the ring and should always remain impartial during judging. They should not engage in conversation with the exhibitor relating to the breeding name or ownership of a pony. A polite 'Good Morning/ Afternoon', 'How old is your pony' is sufficient. Judges should be open to questions from exhibitors regarding reasons for the placing of their animals but keep reasons brief and discreet.
21. A judge must be 100% unbiased and fair. Every exhibitor should receive the same amount of time and attention during judging. A judge's decision is final and binding. The class ends when the judge instructs the steward to dismiss the class.
22. For Health and Safety reasons, judges are discouraged from touching ponies.
23. Judges should not adjust any items of tack on exhibits during the class. Any issues noted should be addressed to the steward and exhibitor advised.
24. Where mark sheets are used for judging under no circumstances should any changes be made. Should the steward have misheard and written the wrong score on the mark sheet, then the score must be corrected, and both the steward and judge initial the mark sheet next to the amended score.

# *The Highland Pony Society*

*Founded 1923*

25. Judges must present rosettes unless a sponsor is present. Please check with your steward for potential sponsors.
26. It is the judge's right to withhold rosettes if they feel entries are of insufficient merit.
27. A judge must report any health & safety incidents/issues with competitors that occur whilst judging and ensure any relevant forms are completed for the show records.
28. Before judging a Horse of the Year Show Qualifier, judges must be familiar with the rules. These appear in a separate rule book available from Horse of the Year Show ([www.hoys.co.uk](http://www.hoys.co.uk)).
29. In the event of a ride judge falling from an exhibit, they must not remount the exhibit in that class, the pony must be asked to leave the ring and will not be allowed to compete further in that class. In the event of a judge falling from an exhibit it is the judges' discretion as to whether they feel fit to continue judging. Should the judge not be fit to continue riding, a replacement judge may be found, or competitors will be asked to do an individual show. The organisers retain the right to override a decision should they think the judge is un-fit to continue.
30. In the event of a competitor falling from an exhibit, they must not remount the exhibit in that class. The pony must be asked to leave the ring and will not be allowed to compete further in that class.

## **JUDGES' IMPARTIALITY**

31. A judge should not judge:
  - any pony bred by him/her or any member of their immediate family, employer, partner or business partner.
  - a pony previously owned, produced, leased, sold by him/her or had any financial involvement with any member of their immediate family, employer, partner, or business partner. Stud fees and associated costs are not included but livery is.
32. A judge should not judge a rider or handler who has ridden, produced, or shown in hand for them in the previous or current showing seasons unless agreed by the show. Please note that group teach ins (4 or more riders) and demos are exempt.
33. If in the opinion of the judge any pony entered for the class is unsound, the judge may, at their discretion, require the exhibitor to withdraw the pony from the class or be subject to lower marking.
34. Judges should request any competitor whose pony appears to be a danger to others to leave the ring. Judges must ensure, particularly in classes including stallions, that ponies are lined up in a position which allows maximum space and minimum danger to competitors.

# The Highland Pony Society

*Founded 1923*

35. If a judge has sufficient grounds to believe the guidelines of the HPS are being breached then the judge must ask the rider/ handler to remove the pony from the ring (e.g. false hair, falsification of markings on a pony, use of make-up etc). The incident must be reported to the show concerned and the HPS as soon as possible.
36. A judge must take firm action against an exhibit whose performance is enhanced or potentially enhanced by artificial aids or outside assistance. Plastic bags, excessive and abnormal use of whips, noise producing objects are all considered to be artificial aids. Such exhibits may be dismissed from the class. The incident must be reported to the HPS office.
37. A judge must not express their views and opinions on specific animals, exhibitors, or judges via any form of social media.
38. In the event judges cannot agree in a championship class, the umpire judge invited can only judge the animals involved in the disagreement.
39. Should the umpire judge in an overall championship have a conflict of interest in one of the ponies, the umpire should stand down.
40. Judges should always remember that they are judging Highland Pony Breed classes and therefore the importance of breed type as emphasised in the breed description must be their priority.

## **RING DISCIPLINE**

- A class is **CLOSED** for judging and ponies will not be allowed to enter the ring:
  - a) **IN-HAND** – when the last pony has completed its individual trot in the initial stages of the class.
  - b) **RIDDEN** – when the class is instructed to proceed forward to trot.
  - c) **WHP** – 5 minutes after the last pony has jumped.
- Once a class has commenced, there can be no substitution of rider or handler without the judge's permission.
- Competitors are not allowed to leave or withdraw from the ring of any class in progress without the permission of the judge.
- If an exhibitor leaves the ring for any reason, they must not re-enter without the permission of the judge.
- A class is completed when the judge dismisses the class via the steward's instructions.
- No person other than the judge and the ring team is permitted to alter the course during working hunter classes.
- Consideration must always be shown to all riders and competitors.

*Dec 2020*