

HIGHLAND PONY SOCIETY JUDGES' SCHEME

I. PRE APPLICATION

- Nominees must be current and fully paid-up members of the Society for a continuous period of at least five years for the In Hand Panel and three years for the Ridden Panel.
- They should have been breeding or showing successfully or involved with Highland ponies during that time.
- Nominees should be familiar with the Highland Pony Society Breed Description and Showing Recommendations. In the opinion of the Council, they must have a proven track record in Highland ponies.
- It is beneficial to have undertaken stewarding and judging at unaffiliated shows.

II. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Potential judges should be proposed and seconded by members of the Highland Pony Society both of whom have been members for a continuous period of at least five years.
- The Application Form, which can be obtained from the Society's Secretary or website, must be submitted with statements of support from the proposer and seconder.
- Application documentation and Statement of Support Forms will only be handled by the Judges' Group in strictest confidentiality.
- Applicants selected by the Judges' Group will be invited for Assessment and Interview. Unsuccessful applicants may not re-apply within two years from the date of refusal.

III. ASSESSMENT & INTERVIEW

- Candidates will not be assessed by their Proposer or Secunder.
- Candidates should come dressed appropriately for judging.
- Candidates for the Ridden Panel will be required to ride ponies.
- Candidates are encouraged to take notes during the classes and be prepared to discuss their placings during the Interview.
- The Interview will be conducted by two Assessors.
- Candidates will be informed of the results by the HPS Office as soon as possible after the assessment.
- If refused, Candidates cannot re-apply for two years from the date of refusal and, on reapplication, should state how they have developed their skill set. The Highland Pony Society will advise on suitable training.
- Any decisions made by the Judges' Group are final.

PROBATION

- Probationers for the In Hand and Ridden Panels are required to undertake probationary shows with In Hand Panel Judges. The number of probations required will be determined by the Judges Group after the Assessment. In Hand Judges applying for the Ridden Panel are not required to probation but their riding ability will be assessed. Ridden Judges applying for the In Hand Panel will be required to undertake additional probationary shows at the discretion of the Assessors.
- A group of judges appointed by the Council of the Highland Pony Society will assign probationers to judges at the relevant number of shows. The candidate will agree the allocation of the judge. Former Assessors of candidates may take them as probationers at shows.
- The probationer judge armband, which will be supplied by the Society, must be worn by the Probationer when in the ring.
- After the show, the judge is required to send a report on the Probationer to the Society for consideration by the Judges Group. Reports are confidential.
- The Society will contact current probationers after each year informing them of their progress to date.
- On completion of the required probationary shows, the Judges' Group will consider all the probationary reports and:
 - i. admit Nominees as B Panel Judges;
 - ii. extend the probationary period; or
 - iii. refuse Nominees.
- Unsuccessful Probationers may not re-apply for two years from the date of refusal and, on reapplication, should state how they have developed their skill set. The Highland Pony Society will advise on suitable training.
- Council will be informed of judges appointed by the Judges Group.

IV. JUDGES

- A group of judges appointed by Council will review each B panel judge to determine whether and when they may be promoted to the full Panel after having judged at a minimum of four shows affiliated to the Highland Pony Society over a minimum of two years. Once approval to be promoted to the full panel is given by Council, the Secretary of the Society will write to inform B panel judges of the decision.
- B Panel Judges must not accept judging appointments at Society Medal shows.
- All judges must be current Society members.
- The Society will write to all current Society Judges annually asking:
 - i. if they wish to remain on the Panel;
 - ii. if they wish to be transferred to the supplementary Panel (Championships etc.);
 - iii. provided they are on the full Panel, if they are willing to take probationers;
 - iv. Ridden Judges if they are willing to ride ponies in the ring;
 - v. at which shows they have judged during the year and approximate numbers forward.

VI. STUDY DAY

- Study Days will be held regularly.
- Judges are encouraged to attend these.