

REGULATIONS for Equine Exhibitors

The Romsey Agricultural & Horse Show Society (hereafter referred to as “The Society”) shall not be responsible for any error which may appear in the catalogue, or for any entry being made in the wrong class. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to read these rules and abide by them.

The Society takes the health and welfare of animals seriously and has signed up to the ASAO Animal Welfare Plan. This Plan relates to all animals exhibited. The Society will take whatever appropriate measures it deems necessary to ensure the best welfare conditions exist for all animals. All exhibitors are required to ensure that their animals are fit and healthy upon arrival and throughout their time on the Showground. More details relating to health and welfare matters can be found elsewhere in these Regulations.

A. General rules

A.1. The term “Authorised official” shall include any person, whether employed by the Society or not, appointed by the Society to act in an official capacity at the Show.

A.2. The term “Showground” shall include all areas under the control of the Society on Show Day, including car parks, horse lines, horse walks, warm-up rings, collecting and horse rings (not just the area to which paid admission is required).

A.3. The term “Exhibitor” shall include all persons taking part in any competition or display arranged by the Society and the owner of any animal, plant, machinery, or other thing involved in such competition or display otherwise exhibited in the Showground. Save for death or personal injury caused by negligence of the Society or its authorised officials, the Society shall not be responsible for death, injury, disease, damage or any loss caused to an exhibit or to their assistant or to any animal, article, plant, machinery, or thing of whatever nature brought to the Showground by said exhibitor from whatever cause such as death, injury, disease damage or loss arises.

A.4. The Society **requires** all Exhibitors to insure themselves, their assistants and their animals against all liabilities both to the Society and its authorised officials and to all other persons using the Society Showground unless the Secretary has given written dispensation. The Society reserves the right to require an appropriate certificate of insurance to be produced for inspection by the Society at the Show Office or upon the Showground.

A.5. All Exhibitors shall indemnify and hold harmless the Society and its authorised officials from and against all actions, suits, expenses and claims made against the Society on account of or in respect of the negligence or breach of contract of the exhibitor.

A.6. Every animal shall be considered and treated as being in the sole custody of the Exhibitor during the whole period of the Show, and, whilst on the Showground, every Exhibitor shall have at least one person in charge of each animal exhibited/brought by him/her at all times, and the Society shall not be responsible in respect of any loss, damage or injury arising from accident or any other cause whatsoever.

A.7. The use of mobile phones and similar personal electronic devices shall NOT be permitted by any person who is directly responsible for an animal (i.e. holding, leading, or riding) in the horse walks, exercise area, warm up areas, and collecting rings. Any use of such devices in the judging rings is forbidden, including taking photographs or videos. Any person found using such a device when handling an animal or supervising a young person handling an animal shall be excluded from the ring.

A.8. No person shall behave in an offensive, abusive or unpleasant manner to any person or any horse/pony at this event. Exhibitors shall be held responsible for the actions of any persons 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 shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Exhibitor concerned. Family Members in this context shall include any person who is, in the reasonable opinion of the Society, a member of the Member’s family in the widest sense.

A.9. No person shall ill-treat animals at any time whether misuse/excessive use of a whip, bit, spurs or any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever.

A.10. Any Exhibitor or his/her assistant who shall refuse to obey an order from the Authorised officials or who shall be guilty of improper behaviour shall not be allowed to compete, and the Society shall have the power to order the offender to leave the Show and to refuse that person’s entry for future Shows. The Society reserve the right to reject or cancel the entry or entries made by any person, if they deem it fit to do so

A.11. No person shall be allowed to fix any placard on the Showground without the written permission of the Secretary, and no exhibitor shall be allowed to distribute handbills on the Showground.

A.12. POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION OR ABANDONMENT. Exhibitors shall not have any claim against the Society or any member of the Society in respect of any loss or damage whatsoever consequent upon the show or any part of it failing to be held or having to be abandoned (for whatever reason e.g. extreme weather, security alerts, etc). No entry monies shall be repaid and the Society shall have no liability for expenses, consequential loss or damage suffered by exhibitors or their representatives as a result of this action.

A.13. The Society has taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the Organisers and all the Authorised officials.

A.14. The Society reserves the right to prevent access to the Showground for any Exhibitor, irrespective of the fact they may have entered Horses or Ponies in any class. Under these circumstances any entry fees or other fees would normally be refunded.

A.15. Any incident, accident or injury pertaining to property, animal, Exhibitor or their assistants, members of the public or show officials must be reported to an Authorised Official immediately. The Authorised Official will then report the matter to the Show Secretary immediately.

B. Entries

B.1. The on-line data and any printed entry forms filled in by exhibitors shall be kept by the Secretary. Every person intending to exhibit shall either enter on-line or obtain the forms as appropriate and send them duly filled in to the Secretary. The Secretary must receive the entry data/form, together with the appropriate entry fee, by the date advertised in the schedule. No prize shall be awarded unless the exhibitor shall have first complied with this rule. Any entry received after the date above referred to shall be accepted only at the discretion of the Secretary and any such late entry that may be so accepted shall be liable to an entry double the normal entry fee [no exceptions].

B.2. A free admission wristband/badge will be sent to each Exhibitor, together with the appropriate number of wristbands/badges for use of bona fide assistants in charge of animals. In the case of the transfer or the improper use of a wristband/badge, it will immediately be cancelled and the full price of admission charged.

B.3. Unless otherwise stated, Exhibitors may enter an unlimited number of animals in each class, subject to the special conditions of the respective classes.

B.4. Horses/ponies **MUST** be entered in the name and ownership under which they are currently registered and **MUST** be shown under their registered name (See also rule B.8).

B.5. Any Exhibitor or other person deceiving or attempting to deceive the Society by entering animals in the wrong classes, ownership or name contrary to these Rules, Classes and Regulations shall forfeit the whole of the entrance fee, and any other prizes won by him/her at the Show except prizes won by exhibits correctly entered by him/her and shall not be allowed in future to exhibit at the Society's exhibitions. The responsibility for correctness of all entries shall rest with the owner or his/her agent and not with the Secretary of the Society for accepting such entry.

B.6. Entries may be substituted provided the Secretary is notified in writing, such notification to reach her **three clear days** before the Show.

B.7. Entrance fees for exhibits which have to be withdrawn before the Show due to illness or accident will be refunded provided a Veterinary Officer's Certificate is produced within one month of the show.

B.8. Every exhibit must be the bona fide property or leasee of the Exhibitor at the time of entry except in the case of the Heavy Horse Turnout where the owner of the vehicle shall be considered as the Exhibitor. If the animal is sold after the date of entry the change of ownership must be notified to the Show Secretary. Stallions leased for the season will be considered the property of the lessor.

B.9. The Society reserves the right to print Exhibitor details in the Show Catalogue and the results. Completion of the entry form (online or otherwise) indicates that the Exhibitor has agreed to these arrangements.

B.10. Numbers will be supplied by the Secretary. Exhibit numbers will be the same as those in the catalogue, and must be properly displayed on each exhibit by the Exhibitor before being admitted to the Show ring. Competitors must wear the correct number for each entry or they may be disqualified by default. No exhibit will be allowed to wear rosettes or ribbons other than those issued or authorised by the Society.

C. Prizes

C.1. **Prize money cards MUST be completed by the winner and returned to the Horse Secretary's tent ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW.**

C.2. All cups and trophies must be returned to the Secretary clean and undamaged, by hand or registered post, by the 1st August of the following year. Exhibitors who fail to do this may have their entries refused.

D. Animal Welfare

D.1. **All equines MUST be accompanied by their approved DEFRA passport in the name of the legal owner.**

D.2. Every equine Exhibitor who shall send for exhibition any animal which, to his/her knowledge is not safe to handle, or is suffering from, or has been in contact with any animal suffering from any contagious or infectious disease, shall forfeit and pay to the Secretary the sum of £1000 as and for liquidated damages for each and every animal sent, and in the event of the Society's Veterinary Inspector certifying that any animal sent for exhibition is, in his/her opinion, a source of danger, such animal shall be removed with due speed by the Exhibitor from the Showground, or be otherwise dealt with as the Veterinary Inspector may direct with a view to averting danger or the spread of contagion.

D.3. The Society vet shall have the right to treat an animal if urgent attention is required and the owner cannot be found. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that horses and ponies are not left unattended whilst tied to the sides of trailers/lorries.

E. Complaints/disputes

E.1. Any Exhibitor lodging any objection must deposit £50, which shall be forfeited if the objection is disallowed. All objections must be delivered in writing to the Horse Secretary's office on the Showground within 30 minutes of the incident which has caused the objection to be raised. The Society, whose decision shall be final, will decide upon the objection.

E.2. All disputes respecting the Rules and Regulations of the Society together with all questions, the consideration of which is not otherwise provided for, shall be referred to the Society, whose decision shall be final.

F. Drugs/Drug testing

F.1. The Society does not tolerate the administration to show exhibits (entered either for competition or sale/ demonstration) of tranquillisers or other drugs which may in any way affect the performance of the animal in question to have the effect of making it behave in the show ring in a manner which is not natural.

F.2. The Society reserves the right to take any samples necessary to test exhibits for the presence of such hormones or other illegal substances. Refusal to submit a sample shall be dealt with by the Society at their discretion.

F.3. Any Person or Exhibitor (or his/her representative) who is found to have administered or permitted the administration of any such tranquilliser or drugs to any Show exhibit shall:

- a) forfeit their entrance fees and any prizes won,
- b) not be allowed to exhibit at RAHSS shows in the future,
- c) be reported to the Organising Committee, and dealt with at their discretion.

In addition, the matter will be referred to the appropriate Breed Society or Organisation.

G. Impartiality

G.1. The Owner, Rider, Handler, and Exhibitor shall be responsible for ensuring the Rules on Impartiality are followed. They 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 shall be treated as the property of the Lessee/Borrower, who shall be defined as the Owner for showing purposes.

G.2. The Society 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 rules in the spirit in which they are intended.

G.3. 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.

G.4. 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 owned or produced by any person for whom or from whom the judge, his/her partner or business partner has provided or obtained livery or had any other connection (business or otherwise) since 1st January of the preceding year. Stud fees are exempt as per Society guidelines.

The horse/pony is or has been owned, bred, produced, trained or exhibited by the judge or, a relative, business partner or partner of the judge. (Group teach-ins and demos are exempt; a Group is considered to be 3 or more people)

The rider has shown a horse/pony owned, produced or trained by the judge since the 1st January of the preceding year. (Group teach-ins and demos are exempt)

The horse/pony is owned or produced by a person from whom the judge has purchased horses/ponies or to whom he/she sold horses/ponies since 1st January of the preceding year in which he/she is judging.

G.5. The onus is on the Exhibitor to stand down in any class, championship or final where there is an infringement of G.4.

H. Rules relating to Horses/Ponies

H.1. No Horse or Pony (other than foals accompanying their dams) not having been entered for exhibition in the Show will be allowed onto the Showground. Proof of entry may be required, by showing the appropriate numbers for exhibits. A **Foal** not entered in its own right on the entry form and not wearing an allocated number is not eligible to win a prize.

H.2. All animals must remain within the Horse lines designated and must not be exercised other than in designated warm-up areas within the Showground at any time. Access to the Rings, via the official Horse Walks, will only be allowed for judging. **Lunging is NOT allowed anywhere on the Showground.**

H.3. Horses and ponies **must not be left unattended** when tied up outside horse boxes or trailers. (See also Rule J.1.)

H.4. The age of the horse/pony is calculated from January 1st in the year of its birth.

H.5. 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.

H.6. All horses/ponies, four years old or over, shall come under the jurisdiction of the Joint Measurement Board. In all classes where horses or ponies are subject to height limits the judge may order the exhibit to be measured unless the exhibitor can produce an appropriate official measurement certificate.

H.7. Horses may be measured in the shoes they come in, and the Society reserves the power to disqualify any horse, which, in its opinion, is excessively or unfairly shod.

H.8. All stallions/entires must hold a Stallion Licence, unless otherwise governed by their individual Breed Society. ALL stallions (ridden and in-hand) **MUST** display a stallion bridle marker (available from most societies) at all times when un-boxed.

H.9. Brood mares must be 3 years old or over and must be shown with foal at foot, or certified in foal (with a vet's certificate) for the following year. Where mares are entered as "in foal", the prize may be withheld until a certificate of foaling within the stated period has been furnished to the Secretary.

H.10. 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.

H.11. 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.

H.12. All foals must be at least four weeks old on the day of the show (except Heavy Horse), must be the offspring of the mare with which they are exhibited, must accompany their dam into the ring and must be led alongside the mare as much as possible.

H.13. Foals must not be body clipped, and must only be shown in a halter or head collar (no bit of any type).

H.14. M&M Small Breeds are defined as Dartmoors, Exmoors, Shetlands and Welsh Sections A & B. M&M Large Breeds are defined as Connemaras, Dales, Fells, Highlands, New Forest, and Welsh Sections C & D.

H.15. All ponies exhibited in purebred M&M classes must be registered in the main body of the Purebred M&M Studbook of their respective breeds at the time of entry. Part bred and ponies registered in the X section are excluded from purebred classes.

H.16. All ponies exhibited in M&M classes shall be trimmed only within their Breed Society specification. Manes must not be plaited and tails not braided. No false hair or hair dyeing is allowed. Ponies are restricted to the height limits laid down by their appropriate Breed Societies and may be measured at the judge's discretion.

J. Age of competitors

J.1. Any person who is directly responsible for an animal (e.g. holding, leading, or riding) on the Showground must have attained their 5th birthday by the day of the show. Any such person under 16 years of age must be accompanied/supervised by an adult while in charge of an animal. See following rules for further restrictions.

J.2. No child under the age of 3 years old on the day of the show may compete.

J.3. To strip a pony a child must have attained their 12th birthday by the 1st January in the current year, except for stallions where the minimum age will be in accordance with rules J.3 and J.4 below.

J.4. Stallions/colts may not be led or handled by a person who has not attained their 14th birthday before the 1st January in the current year.

J.5. Any stallion not exceeding 138cm or small breed M&M stallion may NOT be ridden by a person who has not attained their 12th birthday before the 1st January in the current year. Any stallion exceeding 138cm or large breed M&M stallion may not be ridden by a person who has not attained their 14th birthday before the 1st January in the current year.

K. Attire and Equipment:

K.1. 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 - all PAS 015; VG1; (BS)EN1384 2017; ASTM F1163 04a onwards; SNELL E2001; SNELL E2016; AS/NZS 3838 2003 onwards. Anyone riding a Horse/Pony anywhere on the Showground is **REQUIRED** to wear a properly fastened hat with harness that conforms to current British Standards regardless of breed society rules.

K.2. All those entering the Rings with Horses/Ponies, or to attend Horses/Ponies, must be appropriately dressed including hats. Jackets shall be worn by riders in mounted classes other than Eventing classes where long-sleeved colours and body protectors **must** be worn.

K.3. 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.

K.4. With the exception of side saddle riders, whips/canes must not exceed an overall length (including any lash) of 76 cm (30 inches). If, in the opinion of the judge, the whip is misused then the exhibit may be sent out of the ring.

K.5. The wearing of spurs in any pony classes is forbidden unless otherwise stated.

K.6. Riders/handlers are not permitted to wear earrings (**excluding Lead Rein handlers**) and/or visible body studs. The Judge will ask the competitor to remove them.

K.7. Bandages and protective pads on ponies' feet, or bar shoes, are not allowed. Protective front boots **ONLY** are allowed when jumping.

K.8. 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.

K.9. All ponies in Novice classes must be shown in a snaffle.

K.10. 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.

K.11. Ponies may only be ridden on the showground in tack appropriate to the class they are competing in that day.

K.12. M&M brood mares and youngstock may be shown in a halter, leather head collar or any bridle. Other brood mares and youngstock may be shown in a leather head collar or any bridle.

K.13. All foals must be shown in a halter or leather head collar. No foal may be shown in a bit of any type.

K.14. Ponies will not be penalised for wearing nose mesh nets providing they are not head shaking.

L. Conduct of classes

- L.1. All exhibits must be ready 10 minutes prior to the start of the class and must be present in the ring to be judged or receive awards. Competitors should enter the ring when requested by the Stewards – classes will not be held for latecomers.
- L.2. No exhibits are to enter the rings with any distinguishing mark save as allowed by the Regulations.
- L.3. No person but the judges, ring stewards, other authorised officials, competitors and grooms (where appropriate) shall be in any of the rings while judging is taking place. Grooms should only enter once the appropriate rider has begun their individual show, and must leave the ring before placing is commenced. Unless the judge addresses them, competitors should only communicate with the judge through the ring stewards or other authorised officials.
- L.4. Assistance/interference/coaching from outside the ring is **NOT** permitted.
- L.5. Where there are more than 20 entries forward, classes may be sub-divided.
- L.6. No Ridden pony to be shown on a leading rein except those entered in Leading Rein classes.
- L.7. If a judge decides that a rider is not suitably mounted, they may take appropriate action and place down the line.
- L.8. The judge may require that a pony which constitutes a danger leaves the ring; the judge's decision is final.
- L.9. Ponies may not be ridden side saddle in Leading Rein or First Ridden classes.
- L.10. The class is closed, and horses/ponies will not be allowed into the ring:
 - In Hand/Leading Rein - when the last horse/pony has completed its individual trot round the ring,
 - Ridden - when the class goes into trot,
 - Jumping - 2 minutes after the last horse/pony has finished jumping.
- L.11. A fall of horse/pony or rider in the ring will result in disqualification. The rider **MUST NOT** remount in the ring. A fall of a rider/handler in an in-hand phase may result in elimination at the discretion of the judge.
- L.12. No change of rider/handler will be allowed throughout a class except where a rider/handler is incapacitated, and the judge gives permission for the change.
- L.13. The rider/handler may not remove their horse/pony or themselves from the ring during judging without the judge's permission. The class ends when the judge dismisses the class.
- L.14. Exhibitors who are likely to have horses or ponies in more than one ring at the same time should provide additional riders and/or handlers.
- L.15. Where a rider/handler qualifies more than one pony for a championship they must elect eligible substitute riders/handlers for their other ponies for the championship.
- L.16. No prize shall be awarded when, in the opinion of the judges, there is not sufficient merit, and neither shall any prize or premium be given to the exhibitor who shall not have complied with the Rules and Regulations of the Society.
- L.17. The Society reserve the right to substitute other judges for those named, or to make additional appointments. Classes may be split or amalgamated at the judge's decision. The decision of the judge is always to be accepted as final.
- L.18. The use of resin, soap or other substances in any form or way designed to give an artificial appearance, or any improper means adopted in showing an animal shall disqualify such animal.

M. Jumping penalties

- M.1. No penalty is incurred unless the maximum height of the fence is lowered in the **same vertical plane**.
- M.2. 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 **and** takes at least one step backwards, with any one foot.

ALL EXHIBITORS

By entering into a class at The Romsey Show, you agree that The Romsey Agricultural & Horse Show Society may use any personal contact information you provide in order to contact you about The Romsey Agricultural & Horse Show Society future shows and share competition results with relevant third parties.