



SECTION C

GENERAL SHOWING RULES

Accountable Person - The „accountable person“ is the person who signs the entry form, must be a member or a show member of the Saddlebred Society and a member of his/her Sub Union. He/she will be the person considered to be accountable should any horse reflected on such entry form, test positively for prohibited substances or contravene any rules or standards set out in the Rule Book that is available on the Saddlebred Society's website and of which the English version is the official version.

Adjustments – Tack – Tack adjustments are not allowed during a class. When danger of injury or fall is imminent, the fastening or re-adjustment of the Girth will be allowed.

Age – People – A person's age is determined by the age of the person on the 1st day of January each year. Whatever age is attained on the 1st of January is the age used for that person for the entire year.

Age – Children – A child must be 11 years old or older on the 1st of January (of said year) to be allowed to enter into any Open class or Five-Gaited class at any show.

Exception to the Rule- In the event where a child of 10 years old on the 1st of January wishes to enter a Three- or Park- or Five-Gaited class at a show scheduled **after** the National Championships of said year, he or she may do so **if said child will be 11 years old on 1st January of the following year** and will thus be changing divisions. This exception is not applicable to SSSA equitation classes. (This rule will apply with immediate effect. AGM decision 2025.)

Note must be taken of the following rule: Cross-Entries - Children's Age Groups: Once a younger child has entered in a division for older children, that child may not show in the younger division again at that particular show.

Age – Children – Single Harness – No child 18 years or under on the 1st day of January during the year in which the show is held, will be allowed to show in the Single Harness division. In Single Harness classes the exhibitor (driver) must be 19 years and over on the 1st day of January during the year in which the show is held.

Age – Horses –The age of any horse shown in any division will be determined by the actual age of the horse on the first day of the show/National Championship Show. The first day of the show will be the first day that the open classes start and not the day the Saddle Seat trials start if they are held as part of the National Championship Show.

Age – Horses – All horses 5 years and older will be classified as Senior Horses.

Age – Horses – A horse must be 3 years or older to show in the Five – or Three-Gaited division.

Note that the “Age” rule will be strictly applied in all divisions specified by age:

2 Year-Old Fine Harness

3 Year-Old Three and Five Gaited and Fine Harness Classes

4 Year-Old Three and Five Gaited and Fine Harness Classes and
Single Harness Classes

5 Year-Old Three Gaited and Five Gaited classes, Fine Harness and
Single Harness Classes

Limit Three and Five Gaited Classes for 5-year-old horses that are still under 6 years old.

Amateur Rider – An amateur exhibitor is any person 19 years old and over on the 1st day of January during the year in which the show is held. The above person must also be a member of the Saddlebred Society of South Africa and he must meet the criteria of an amateur and have an confirmed Amateur number. (Board decision June 2024)

Amateur - Owner Trained Horse: The owner trained horse is a horse that physical has been in the possession and trained by the owner and/or immediate family member for longer than three months (90 days) prior to the particular show where he or she wants to enter into an Owner Trained Class. Immediate family of the owner of the horse will also qualify to enter into the Owner Trained Classes. AGM decision 2023

Exception to this rule will be if the horse was acquired from an amateur who has trained the horse for longer than three months prior to the sale of the horse.

Proof of either of the above, must accompany the entry for Owner Trained Classes e.g., Ownership or transfer of ownership, pending transfer or certified letter, etc.

Horses that are stabled or stand at a facility where a trainer is present, but does not necessarily or specifically train this particular horse, will not be allowed to enter into Owner Trained Classes. Rules, Tack Requirements, Turn-Out of Horse, and Dress Requirements will apply as per the Rule Book in each division.

Animated Walk – The walk is an animated four beat gait. It is highly collected and slow and performed with great style. It mustn't degenerate into a common jog. In Five-Gaited only the first walk after the first trot that is performed each way of the arena is judged.

Any subsequent walks called in between the other gaits is a time that exhibitors may use to find a better position, collect a horse, or stop momentarily. Note that although a rider stops a horse momentarily, they may not stand for the entire time allowed for the walk. (See Basic Gaits and Common Faults in both Sections F and G).

Pleasure Horse, Western Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Show Hack and Pleasure Horse Equitation classes will be judged on a four beat, strait, true and flat-footed walk. In these classes all the walk segments are judged.

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins are prohibited in the Collecting Ring after the 3 (three) minute rule call has been made by the Collecting Ring Steward, or in the show arena. The misuse or cruel use of any bit and inappropriate bridles such as hackamores are prohibited, and riders will be disqualified.

Awards – Exhibitors should approach the Sponsor safely in the direction designated by the Ringmaster or Steward. The exhibitor should come to a full stop, preferably next to the rail (this helps the horse to stand when being approached by the sponsors). The exhibitor's full attention should be given to this exercise in the interest of the safety and particularly good manners towards the sponsors.

Bad Luck – Any horse showing to the conclusion of a class but experiencing bad luck may remain in the arena and join the line-up to be inspected. The exhibitor must request permission from the Ringmaster, seconded by at least two Judges, at that point to enter the Grand Championship. The exhibitor may then be excused and proceed to pay the amount equivalent to the lowest prize money in the Championship at the show office. If allowed the number of such an exhibitor must be recorded and handed to the Records Clerk for control purposes.

Bad Luck – Collecting Ring: Once the gate is opened and an exhibitor experience a breakage due to an accident or unforeseen cause, while the horses are busy entering the arena, five (5) minutes will be allowed for repairs. Horses already in the arena must be called to relax and will not be judged.

Horses still in the collecting ring must remain in the collecting ring if the gate is blocked, if not it will be optional to either remain in the collecting ring till the problem is resolved or enter the arena, relax and will not be judged.

Note must be taken that this five-minute time-out rule is for “Bad Luck” only. Collecting ring rules will apply for all other unforeseen happenings.

Bad Luck -

Extenuating Circumstances – Any horse losing a shoe or becoming victim of destructive collision, must join the line-up to be inspected and request permission from the Ringmaster to enter the Grand Championship. If it is impossible for the exhibitor to remain in the arena the exhibitor must request permission from the Ringmaster to be excused and to be allowed to enter the Grand Championship.

The number of such an exhibitor must be recorded and handed to the Records Clerk for control purposes. In such instances there will be no additional entry fee to pay.

Bad luck -

Medical Emergency - In the event of an exhibitor having a medical emergency resulting that he or she forfeits a class or have to forfeit his or her qualifying class will be allowed to obtain permission from the Show Committee to enter into the relevant Grand Championship class. The Show Committee can grant permission with a proper medical report. The number of such an exhibitor must be recorded and handed to the Records Clerk for control purposes. In such instances there will be no additional entry fee to pay. AGM decision 2023

Belly String – A belly string may be re-tied.

Bits - See under Tack Requirements and Rules in the Rule Book for the correct turn- out of a horse in each division. A combination bit with a broken or solid mouthpiece with shanks where double reins are attached is acceptable in all riding classes including Equitation Classes.

Blindfolding – Horses may not be blindfolded on any show grounds.

Blinkers – The use of full cup blinkers is not allowed on any show grounds.

Blindness – Horses blind in one eye may be shown. Horses blind in both eyes may not be shown. Blindness is a disqualification in Breeding classes.

Blood – Any evidence of blood on a horse during a class will result in the exhibitor be asked to pull in and move to the Ringmaster. The class will be relaxed and the exhibitor in question will be allowed one (1) minute to stop the bleeding with the help of one person from the outside. No aids, excluding a towel, will be allowed to help stop and clear the blood. Once the bleeding has stopped, the exhibitor will rejoin the class and the class will continue.

A horse with blood that cannot be cleared, and remains visible, will be excused, and must leave the arena. Horses are allowed one time-out for blood per class. Bleeding that re-occurs in the remainder of the class to the same horse will result in the horse being excused immediately from the arena. The exhibitor will have the option to enter and show the horse back in the championship.

If blood is seen after the final walk or in the line-up, the exhibitor will still be placed although the horse will be excused and must leave the arena immediately. Should the remaining horses be asked to perform another gait after the final walk or should a workout be called then the „excused“ horse will be disqualified from the class, if included in the workout, the „bad luck“ rule will apply.

Breakages – Collecting Ring: Exhibitors experiencing breakages in the collecting ring, through an accident or other unforeseen cause, will be given 5 minutes to repair the breakage, while the gate stays closed. (optional)

Breeding Classes – See Section E

Bridles - Walk and Trot -Exhibitors must use a snaffle bridle with a martingale or snaffle bridle with a German Martingale in the Walk and Trot Horse and Equitation classes riders 8 years and under.

-Exhibitors must use a full bridle in the Walk and Trot Horse and Equitation classes for riders 9 years old.

-Exhibitors must use a full bridle in the Walk and Trot Horse and Equitation classes for riders 10 years old.

-Exhibitors must use a snaffle bridle with a martingale or snaffle bridle with a German Martingale in the Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse and Pleasure Horse Equitation classes for riders 10 years and under.

-Exhibitors can use a snaffle bridle with a martingale, a snaffle bridle with a German Martingale or a full bridle in the Walk and Trot Natural Mane and Tail classes for riders 10 years and under. (See Walk and Trot in this sect)

Broken Wind – Is a possible discrimination depending on the degree of the condition. See „Roaring“ in this section.

Child - Definition for juvenile persons, male or female, intending to compete in the Children's divisions at a show. A "child" is a male or female person 18 years or under on the 1st day of January during the year in which the show is held.

Unless otherwise elected to enter in an older age group at a particular show not prohibited in any other section of these Rules, the specific age of the child will determine the age group in which they may participate.

Also see the rule regarding "Age – Children" and "Cross-Entries – Children's Age Groups" in this section.

Child's "Gap Year" rules & regulations:

1. A child may, only in the first year after completing school, request a "gap year" where he/she may train horses at a training facility without losing his/her Child- or Amateur status. Child- or Amateur status will be determined by the person's age on 1 January of the year, being 18 for a child or 19 for an Amateur. The "gap year" will be from 1 January to 31 December of the year after leaving school.

2. Written application should be done in time, i.e. before commencing such duties, and written consent by the Amateur Committee and Saddlebred Board should be obtained. Transgression of this rule of obtaining written consent, will disqualify the person from having either Child- or Amateur status.

3. If consent for a "gap year" is obtained, the applicant may NOT show any horses of clients in children- and/or Amateur classes, nor in Senior Pleasure Horse classes. Such horses of clients may only be shown in open classes by the applicant during this year. (not in ladies- or gents- or amateur classes)

4. If consent for a "gap year" is obtained, the applicant may still show horses owned by self or immediate related family (as described in amateur criteria) in any children's classes.

Approved by Board 02/03/2026

Child's Horse – Any horse that is suitable for a child to be shown in Children's classes is regarded as a Child's Horse. Manners are of primary importance. The horses are judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation in that order. Children are allowed to ride mares and geldings only in these divisions. Stallions are not permitted.

Classes – Age Classes (per division) presented at a show are subject to change by the Show Committee.

Collecting Ring – All exhibitors must report to the Collecting Ring 3 (three) minutes before the start of their class for inspection. Ignoring this rule will lead to disqualification. Before the three-minute call is made by the Collecting Ring Steward, the Warm-up area will also serve as an extension of the Collecting Ring.

The Collecting Ring Steward inspect exhibitors and their horses for correct equipment, that all training aids or devices of exhibitors in the collecting ring are removed, correct dress and may assist in identifying possible cross entries. Collecting Ring Stewards may inspect any horse and not necessarily all of the horses. Exhibitors will have the choice of supplying a groom to assist during inspection if a horse is difficult. This must be done in a safe area and the 3-minute rule will apply. If a horse is not inspected by the Collecting Ring Stewards and the Exhibitor is caught with something illegal a heavy fine will be imposed. Exhibitors experiencing breakages in the collecting ring, through an accident or other unforeseen cause, will be given 5 minutes to repair the breakage, while the gate stays closed.

Combining and Dividing Classes – The Board of the Saddle Horse Breeders Society of South Africa reserves the right to split or combine classes where the Board deems necessary. In the event of classes being split it will be done equally by number and not by gender. In the case of the Children's classes, it will be split according to age and not gender.

Cross-Entries – There will be no cross-entries between:

Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited classes.

Fine Harness and Single Harness classes.

Pleasure Horse classes and any other class except Equitation and Breeding classes.

Age groups in horses.

Age groups in Children's classes.

Cross-Entries - Children's Age Groups: Once a younger child has entered into a division for older children, that child may not show in the younger division again at that particular show. Children may not enter between age groups at a particular show.

Exceptions to the Rule of Cross entries– Age groups in Children's Classes:

In an event where a show does not offer a division in the rider's age group, for example, three gaited 14 years and under, but not five gaited 14 years and under, the rider may

enter in the older division, e.g., 18 years and under, if that is offered. Once a Child has qualified a horse in his or her age group, he or she may choose which Children Grand Championship Class he or she wants to enter. Example: a child who qualifies in the 14 years and under will be allowed to enter in the 18 years and under Grand Championship Class. With qualification he or she will not be allowed to enter in both Championships. This rule only applies to exhibitors 14 years and under.

Cross – Entries – Lead Rein Classes - There will be no cross-entries between Lead Rein Walk and Trot, and Lead Rein Walk Only, Classes at any show.

Hard Hats – 3-point basic hard hat – It will be compulsory for all classes where exhibitors are 8 years and under. Classes for 9 + 10 years and under, hard hats will be optional. Hard hats for riders in the Therapeutic classes will be optional.

Children's age groups in the Walk and Trot division are:

10 years old.
9 years old.
8 years old and under.

Children's age groups in the Three-Gaited division are:

11 years old.
12 years old.
13 years old.
16 years old and under.
18 years old and under.
15.1 hand horse, rider 18 years old and under.
Grand Champion Three-Gaited Horse, rider 18 years old and under.

Children's age groups in the Five-Gaited division are:

11 to 14 years old
15 to 18 years old
15.1 hand horse, rider 18 years old and under.
Grand Champion Five-Gaited Horse, rider 18 years old and under.

Children's age groups in the Fine Harness division are:

12 to 14 years old & 15 to 18 years old

Cross-Entries – Five-Gaited Horses – Equitation – Five-Gaited horses may cross- enter in the Three-Gaited Equitation classes but may not enter both the Five- Gaited and Three-Gaited Equitation Class at the same show. An example of this cross entry would be when a

child shows a horse in the Five- Gaited Child's Riding Horse Class and then cross enters in the Three-Gaited Equitation division.

Cross- Entries – Natural Mane and Tail – “Natural Mane and Tail horses may enter into the Fine Harness, Five Gaited and Park Horse Grand Championship Classes at any show with a Top Tail.”

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail - Fine Harness:

May cross-enter in Fine Harness performance classes.

May not cross-enter in the Pleasure Horse Division.

May not cross-enter in Single Harness classes.

They may enter the Fine Harness Grand Championship class at Regional Shows and at the S.A. National Championships.

At the S.A. Nationals they must qualify for the Grand Championship class in the Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail class.

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail – Five-Gaited:

May cross-enter in Five-Gaited performance classes.

May not cross-enter the Pleasure Horse Division.

May not cross-enter any Three-Gaited classes.

They may enter the Five-Gaited Grand Championship class at Regional Shows and the S.A. National Championship Show. At the S.A. National Championship, they must qualify in the Five Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class.

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail–Three Gaited:

May cross-enter in the Park Horse classes.

May not cross-enter in Three-Gaited performance classes.

May not cross-enter in the Pleasure Horse Division.

May not cross-enter in the Five-Gaited Division.

They may enter the Park Horse Grand Championship class.

At Regional Shows they may enter the Three-Gaited Grand Championship class if there is no Park Horse Grand Championship class.

If exhibited by a child, they may enter the Children's Three-Gaited Grand Championship at Regional Shows.

At the S.A. National Championship, they must qualify for the Grand Championship in the Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class.

They may cross-enter in the Fine Harness- OR Single Harness Division but not both.

Cross-Entries – Novice Horses – There will be no cross-entries between the Novice Class and any other class unless the Novice Class is first on the schedule at the National Championships. After a cross-entry is made the said horse is no longer eligible for the Novice division at any subsequent show.

Cross-Entries – Park Horses – There will be no cross-entries between Park Horses and Three-Gaited performance classes, Pleasure Horse classes or Five- Gaited classes. Park Horses may enter in the Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail classes if the horse's tail has never been cut or set in any way. Park horses may enter the relevant In- Hand classes and cross enter in the Fine Harness division OR the Single Harness division. They may enter the Three-Gaited Grand Championship class or the Children's Three-Gaited Grand Championship class at Regional Shows that do not offer a Grand Championship class for Three-Gaited Park Horses.

Cross-Entries – Pleasure Horses - Pleasure horses may cross enter in Equitation Classes and Breeding Classes. However, there will be no cross entries between: Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited Classes, except for Equitation. See rule regarding Cross-Entries – Five-Gaited Horses – Equitation.

Cruelty – Any extremes regarding the use of hands, bits, spurs, or whips will result in disqualification. also see „WELFARE OF HORSES“

Dangerous Behavior of Horse – Any horse that:

Quits

Disrupts the flow of traffic in a class.

Moves or runs to the center of the arena being out of control.

Continuously refuses a gait.

Bucks

Kicks dangerously or uncontrolled

Acts in any uncontrolled manner

- will be brought to the center of the arena and be excused by a Judge through his\her Steward, or the Ringmaster seconded by one Judge.

Dangerous Behavior of an Exhibitor – Any exhibitor who:

Continuously disrupts a class.

Have poor control of their horse.

Cuts off other exhibitors from the rail.

Charges between the rail and another exhibitor

Deliberately bumps or harasses another Exhibitor, Judge or Steward.

Acts in any uncontrolled manner - will be brought to the center of the arena and be excused by a judge through his\her Steward, or the Ringmaster seconded by one Judge. Board decision Feb.2025.

Death – In the event of the death of a horse on any show grounds the matter is to be reported to the Show Committee and/or Sub-Union Committee. The Committee reserves the right to demand a veterinary certificate and/ or a postmortem stating the reasons for the death of the horse.

Development Classes – Development classes for riders showing less than two years may be implemented at regional and club shows if the show society deems such a class necessary.

Diagonals – Diagonal is the word used to refer to a rider posting with either the horse's right or left leg at the trot to maintain correct balance. A rider is said to be riding the right diagonal when they are posting in unison with the right front leg or the left diagonal when they are posting with the horse's left front leg. Riding the correct diagonal, unless otherwise requested by a Judge, is a basic requirement in the Equitation division but NOT in the open divisions.

The correct diagonal, when proceeding in a counterclockwise direction in the arena would be the right diagonal, when proceeding in a clockwise direction it would be the left diagonal.

Discretion – Any situation developing in the show ring regarding possible disqualification will be a matter for the Judge, Judges and/or Ringmaster's discretion.

Discretion, Exhibitor's – It is in the interest of the Saddle Horse, nationally, that each exhibitor uses discretion in public regarding the care, training, and presentation of their horses. Poorly maintained horses; horses with sore and crooked tails; certain training methods that should not be used in public; horses badly presented due to lack of sufficient training at home create a negative impression of the Saddle Horse.

Dismount or stepping down from show buggy: - Permission or ratification of the Ringmaster is needed for an exhibitor to dismount or to step down from a show buggy during a class so that the action will not be regarded as a possible fall. **When danger is imminent**, quick action must be taken to avoid injury. Stepping down from show buggy in harness classes for fear of injury to the horse, driver, or other exhibitors. When the above happens, the concerned participant can then give an explanation to the Ringmaster for his or her action and therefore will not necessarily always lead to a disqualification. AGM decision 2023.

Disobedience of horse or exhibitor, if continued, warrants disqualification, but Judges and Stewards must maintain good rapport so that Judges are not deprived of their right of opinion, or the Steward their right of maintaining discipline and order.

Dividing Large Classes – Any class exceeding 25 entries will be divided equally.

Dress, Riders/Drivers – Refer to all sections in this handbook for the correct dress required in each show division. All riding clothes are to be in good taste. Ruffles, string ties, large bows, large flowers, suits without waistcoats, gaudy colors, dirty suits and boots, jodhpurs not fastened securely under boots, and formal clothes before 6:00PM are not in good taste. No advertisement of stables/stud names/persons may be visible on clothes, aprons, caps etc. at any time in the arena.

Ears – The wiring or fastening of a horse's ears in any way is prohibited and will result in a disqualification by the Judge, Steward, or Ringmaster.

Eligibility – Horses - All horses must be registered with the Saddlebred Society of South Africa in order to participate in both Regional Shows as well as the SA National Championship Show at Bloemfontein. All horse owners' membership fees and sub-union fees must be fully paid before participation at any show.

Eligibility – Namibian Exhibitors – Exhibitors owning horses that are trained in South Africa are subject to the same rules regarding their eligibility to show at the SA National Championship Show, Bloemfontein, as the South African exhibitors. Horses trained in Namibia are required to show at one show in Namibia during the show season prior to the SA National Championship Show, Bloemfontein, if they intend to enter.

Eligibility – Exhibitors - All exhibitors must be members of the Saddlebred Society of South Africa as a show member or a breeder (with fully paid membership) to participate in the SA National Championship Show at Bloemfontein. If not a breeder, the exhibitor will pay an "exhibitor fee" as a show member.

All exhibitors must be members of their respective Sub-Unions (with fully paid sub-union membership), as well as Breeders' membership fees if member of the Saddlebred Society, to participate in both Regional-, as well as the SA National Championship Show at Bloemfontein.

All exhibitors, according to their status, need to be members of either the Professional Trainers or the Amateur Society. Junior exhibitors (children) must be members (with fully paid membership) of a sub-union to participate in both Regional Shows as well as

the SA National Championship Show at Bloemfontein. Exhibitors are required to declare their status as either a Professional Trainer, Amateur, Non-Amateur or Junior.

End of Class - A class is deemed to be finished when the exhibitors are asked to relax after the Judges have completed their judging in the Line-up.

Entries – NO Entrant will receive his/her show numbers at a show, and thus will not be able to participate, if the Undertaking- and Indemnity documents are not completed and signed by the Entrant and handed in at the show office.

Entry Fees – Entry fees will be announced annually on the National Championship entry forms. Changes in entry fees for the Grand Championships are discussed and decided on by the show committee if necessary. Entry fees for organized shows are decided on by the relative show committees and circulated with the entry forms.

Entry Limitations – A horse may be entered in a total of 4 classes, including the Championship classes, at the National Championships (Bloem Show). In Hand (Breeding) classes are not counted as part of the 4-class limitation.

Entry Limitations – Saddle Seat – Only horses competing in the Saddle Seat trials and qualifying to compete in the Champion of Champions may enter a 5th equitation class at the National Championship Show.

Entry Limitations – Regional Shows – A horse may be entered into a total of 3 classes, including the Championship classes, at Regional Shows. In Hand (Breeding) classes are not counted as part of the 3-class limitation.

There is an exception to this limitation for a horse that is entered into the combination of the following 4 classes: Country Pleasure Horse Riding Classes / Country Pleasure Horse Driving Classes / Western Division / Show Hack Division.

See Sections M, N and P

Once a Show Hack-, Western-, Country Pleasure Horse participates in any other class, that horse will not be allowed to show in more than 3 classes at that particular show.

Entry Limitations – Walk and Trot and Lead Rein Walk and Walk and Trot Classes.

Walk and Trot and Lead Rein classes will constitute half a class and therefore, two of these classes will count as one class. A horse may participate in a total number of 4 classes at the National Championships, but only in a total of three classes at all other shows. This limitation excludes Breeding Classes.

Entry Limitations - Open and Amateur Grand Championship Classes – Horses may not show in more than one Grand Championship class at any show, including the National Championships. Example: a horse may enter in the Three-Gaited Championship Class or the Amateur Three-Gaited Championship Class, not both. Only an Amateur may qualify a horse for the Amateur Championship Classes. (*Updated Feb 2016.*)

Excused – To be excused from the class, permission of the Ringmaster is needed. Permission to enter the relevant Grand Championship is needed from the Ringmaster before leaving the arena. See „Bad Luck“ in this section.

Extension of check - Extension of the check in the line-up will be allowed in harness classes. When extensions are used it must be neat and in good taste. *AGM decision August 2022.*

Falls – If a fall occurs due to outside interference or circumstances beyond the rider's control, he/she may remount and continue at the discretion of the Judge and/or Ringmaster and/or Steward. If a fall occurs due to bad manners of a horse or the rider's inability to ride and control the horse it will result in disqualification from the class. Falls, Extenuating Circumstances – Falls caused by slippery conditions, collisions, kicking or outside interference will not result in disqualification.

Family Members and Owner of Horse –

Regional Shows: Any Judge will be asked to stand down if:

A: a Family member of his/her immediate family wishes to participate in a class.

B: Being the owner of a horse that wishes to participate in a class.

C: An immediate family's horse (even if shown by another rider or driver) that wishes to participate.

If any of the above is imminent, a qualified, senior Judge will stand in for that class.

National Championships:

Judges that are nominated for the S.A. National Championships and accept the position of judge for these championships, may not:

A: Have horses of his or her own entered.

B: Have close family members participating.

C: Judge immediate family's horses.

Fire Extinguishers, Firecrackers – The use of fire extinguishers and firecrackers are totally banned on all show grounds.

Gaits – All gaits must be performed correct and true. Failure to do this will result in discrimination. See brief descriptions of each gait in Sections F, G, H, and I.

Gait Mixing – Any tendency for horses to mix gaits in any way will be discriminated against. See the description of gaits for Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited, Fine Harness and Single Harness horses in Sections F, G, H and I. Any deviation from true gaits will be discriminated against.

Gate, Time Rule – Exhibitors have two minutes to enter the arena from the time that they are informed that the gate is opened until it is closed. Exhibitors are judged from the time that they enter the arena even if the gate is still open and other horses are entering. All rules apply from the time each exhibitor enters the arena.

Gentleman – Definition for men intending to compete in the Gentlemen's divisions at a show. A "gentleman" is a male person, 19 years of age or over on the 1st day of January during the year in which the show is held. Extenuating circumstances regarding this rule may occur in the event of a male person, not yet 19 years of age as mutatis mutandis indicated, and being appointed as a junior- or assistant trainer. Under these circumstances the restriction, in terms of age, will not apply. The rider is then deemed emancipated of age, thus will show as a man.

Ginger – The use of ginger is prohibited.

Hand – A „hand“ is the unit of measurement for a horse and is equal to 4 (four) inches. An inch is equal to 2.540 centimeters. Therefore 1 „hand“ equals 10.16 centimeters.

Harness for harness classes – A light harness with a stainless steel, half spoon cheek, jointed-mouth driving snaffle is required as well as an over-check bit. A harness must be complete with blinkers, martingale, traces, and crupper.

The over-check bit may not be strapped, tied down or locked to the driving snaffle. It may be fastened neatly and in a good-looking manner to the bridle or taped at the top of the bridle between the horse's ears. Traces may not be wound around shafts.

Handholds – Handholds (loops) on reins are optional in an open class, but must be used in Ladies'- and Children's Classes.

Handlers – Please note that we have an obligation to our sponsors. Many of them would like to have a win picture with the winning horse.

To do this correctly and safely the co-operation of the rider/driver and the assistance of a

handler are needed. A Handler should wipe off the horse and stand it up if the rider/driver is unable to do so. It shall be a discrimination against the exhibitor if the handler is untidy, disorderly, or undisciplined. The handler is not meant to appear in the photograph.

Handlers – Dress - Men are required to wear a dress shirt, (plain white, single color or small checks) tie and neat pants. Women are to wear suitable clothing that is considered to be in good taste for the occasion. A fine will be imposed on Handlers not dressed correctly.

Handlers in line-up – Handlers must attend exhibitors in the line-up of the Walk and Trot classes. This includes the 8 years and under, 9-year-old and 10-year-old Walk and Trot classes; both in the Equitation and Riding Horse classes as well as the Pleasure Horse and Pleasure Horse Equitation for riders 10 years and under. Do not ignore this rule; it is necessary for the safety of our children and Sponsors.

Hard Hats - 3-point basic hard hat - Compulsory for exhibitors 8 years and under.
9 years and under – optional.
10 years and under – optional.
For the Therapeutic Classes: hard hats will be optional. (Updated Aug 2015)

Height Limit Classes (15.2 hand and under – Any horse entered in this division must measure 15.2 hand or under when fully shod for show purposes. A horse measuring 15.2 hand is equal to 62 inches. 62 inches times 2.540 centimeters equals 157.48 centimeters. It is the responsibility of the person entering the horse (the “accountable person”) to comply with the rule that requires the horse to measure 15.2 hand or under. AGM decision 2023.

Any number of horses may be selected for random measuring by the Show Committee, Judge and/or Ringmaster (At Regional Shows the Show Committee consists of Sub Union Management) and will be identified in the line-up to be measured immediately after completion of the class.

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to present the horse to the Steward for measurement immediately after the class, before returning the horse to the barn. In the case of more than one horse to be measured after the class the exhibitor and/or accountable person must stay with the horse and see that a cooling blanket is available for the horse, if necessary, until such time as the horse can be measured. If it is not possible for the exhibitor and/or accountable person to stay with the horse, he/she must obtain the permission of the designated Steward to appoint a caretaker to attend the horse.

If the horse should measure taller than 15.2 (157.48 centimeters) - a designated person will be asked to measure the horse again with the Ringmaster present. If the horse should again measure taller than 15.2 (157.48 centimeters) the case will be referred to the disciplinary committee and a penalty will have to be paid within two weeks by the accountable person. The rosette and/or trophy will be returned immediately and any cash or „product prizes“ forfeited. If there is any dispute after the measuring of the horse it will also be referred to the disciplinary committee at the show and their decision will be final.

Hollow- or Soft-Backed Horses - The following Rules replace the current Rules (28/02/2017) for Hollow Backed horses:

Hollow- or Soft-backed horses will be disqualified in all Harness or Hand (Breeding) classes, subject to the rules as set out below:

These rules will not be applied in Harness classes for horses born before 31st December 2006. This exception is not applicable to any Hand (breeding) classes though. It is the responsibility of the person that enters a horse ('accountable person'), to comply with these rules.

Horses may be measured on the initiative of the owner before participating in a class.

Any member of the show committee or a steward of the show, may request that a horse be measured before a class. Measuring will take place by a delegated steward(s) of the Stewards Association. This Steward(s) will keep a list of horses that have been measured and the result of the measurement. The delegated steward(s) will on request of the owner of the horse, issue a certificate that the specific horse comply with the minimum requirements.

In all harness classes, the Judges will accept that all horses that enter the show ring, have passed the minimum requirement for competition, and will therefore not apply any discrimination against any possible conformation defect. In hand classes, the Judge can discriminate against potential conformation defects, as the judge normal do in judging conformation, with the option to ask for the horse to be measured after the class, as set out in point7. This can lead to a possible disqualification as set out in point 11, if the horse is measured and found to be a hollow back.

Any Member of the Show Committee, Judge or Ringmaster (and where the Sub Union Committee fulfil the role as Show Committee, any member of that Committee), may nominate any number of horses to be measured after completion of the class.

It is the responsibility of the competitor to take the horse to the nominated steward to be measured, directly after the class. The horse can be saddled down but must not go back to the stables. If more than one horse needs to be measured, then it is the responsibility of the competitor or the accountable person to stay with the horse and put on a cool-down blanket, if necessary, till the horse can be measured. If it is not possible for the competitor or the accountable person to stay with the horse, then permission must be asked from the nominated steward for a replacement to look after the horse, till it's measured.

If a horse's name appears on the list of horses that has already been measured before a class or the Owner has a valid certificate which is not older than one year, then that horse does not need to be measured again, if nominated.

If a horse is placed in a class and is measured after the class, upon nomination by the show committee, a Judge or ringmaster and the horse don't meet the minimum requirements, a second steward will be asked to measure the horse.

If the second steward confirms that the horse doesn't meet the minimum requirements, the horse will be disqualified. This will be a contravention of the rules and the responsible person for that horse's entry, will be subjected to disciplinary measures by the Disciplinary Committee.

If there is a dispute about the measuring, then the measuring will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and their finding will be final.

If the following measurements are present, then the horse will be disqualified as a hollow back or a soft back: The horse must stand square on all four feet, with the legs vertical to the body (not stretched) in a natural position, when measured. Ideally with the back of the heel in a vertical line with the back of the rear quarter/buttocks. The head must just be lowered enough, to find the highest point on the wither. Only a bridle or a halter are allowed on the horse, no other artificial aids allowed. The measurement will be done on a level surface. (Concrete surface preferred). The back will be measured from fixed points, from the highest point on the wither to the highest point on the croup (A). Then, the Back will also be measured with a soft tape from the highest point on the wither (following the curve of the back) to the highest point on the croup (B). (A) Will be calculated as a percentage of (B) to give the result of (C). If (C) is less than 95%, then the horse will be regarded as a hollow- or a soft-backed horse and it will be disqualified for competing in Harness or Hand (Breeding) Classes. With this percentage calculation, the age or size of the horse is irrelevant.

Hooves – For all classes that do not have a specific hoof length, the maximum length must not be longer than 15cm. This includes the pads but excludes the shoe.

Humane Braces / Show Tails – Any horse that loses a humane brace or show tail or continues to perform with the unsightly and impending loss of a false tail will be disqualified and excused immediately from the class. If the impending loss of the tail was caused by interference/accident by another horse the 'Bad Luck' rule will apply.

In a Grand Championship class this will result in disqualification and the horse will be excused immediately.

Inspection of horses - The designated Council of the Society, and/or representatives/committee have the right to do inspections of any horse before, during and or after a show. Inspections may also be done at any time before or after a show, on any premises where Saddle Horses are stabled.

During a show the inspections will be done in the stables and the trainer/exhibitor/owner must be present and assist. If anyone refuses to have a horse checked, the Council of the Society, and/or designated representatives/committee, has the right to refuse participation of such a horse and/or participant, until further notice.

If any horse is found to be neglected, injured or in any condition that will reflect badly on the breed and/or show, the Council of the Society, and/or designated representatives/committee, has the right to refuse participation of such horse and/or participant at any show, until further notice.

A Vet's opinion may be rendered, and the costs is for the owner, but the final decision will be that of the Council of the Society, and/or designated representatives/committee.

This rule is in addition to the existing rule of inspection of horses in the collecting ring before a class and does not replace the rule.

Judges – Regional shows have the right to decide to invite two junior judges and one senior Judge if they so wish. However, there must be at least one senior Judge on the panel.

Ladies Horse – A Ladies Horse is a horse suitable for a lady with the emphasis on manners. Ladies' horses are judged on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation. As from the 1st of January 2023, stallions will be permitted in the

ladies' divisions. AGM decision August 2022.

Only ladies 19 years and over on 1 January of the show year, may compete in the Ladies division. Board Meeting decision November 2022.

Lady – Definition for female persons intending to compete in the Ladies' division at the show - A "lady" is a female person, 19 years of age or over on the 1st day of January of the year in which the show is held. Extenuating circumstances regarding this rule may occur in the event of a female person not yet 19 years of age as mutatis mutandis indicated, and being appointed as a junior or assistant trainer. Under these circumstances the restriction, in terms of age, will not apply. The rider is then deemed emancipated of age, thus will show as a lady.

Large Classes – Classes exceeding 25 entries will be equally divided. See Combining Classes and Dividing Classes.

Lead Rein Classes – Age 4 (four) to 8 (eight) years - No cross entries of riders in lead rein class with ANY other class at the show. A child will be allowed to show in lead line in the year in which he turns four. (not age on 1 Jan of year) (AGM decision Aug 2026) Horse must be SUITABLE. The safety of the child is of paramount importance.

Hard Hats – 3-point basic hard hat is compulsory for exhibitors in this class.

Tack: Snaffle bridle with martingale, single rein, and nose band.

Saddle to suit the size of rider and feet must be in stirrup irons

The lead rein must be fixed to the nose band (underneath the chin). The lead rein may not be attached to the snaffle. A lead chain may be unobtrusively passed under the nose band as a safety measure.

The rider must be able to guide and halt the horse with handler acting as a safety measure only. Riders will be asked to trot and must post, those unable to trot may continue to walk. Credit will be given accordingly. Ability of the rider and suitability of the horse will be judged.

Riders may form a smaller circle around the judge as opposed to using the whole arena.

Handlers must be appropriately dressed, long trousers and ties, or suitable dresses. No shorts, sandals, or tekkies/sneakers.

Not more than two attendants per horse will be allowed. (Updated Feb 2016)

Dress: Riders to be appropriately dressed. Riding pants, shirt, waistcoat, and tie. Show societies may consider having one Lead Rein class including all breeds at shows. (Updated 17 Nov 2015)

Leg Bandages – Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the Show Committee because of wet conditions.

Limit Classes – Classes for both Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited horses that are 5 years old and have not yet turned 6 years old.

Line-up – When exhibitors are asked to line-up at the conclusion of a class, work- out or re-ride, they must proceed to the line-up in the same direction as the horses were moving when the announcer calls for the line-up. Any “last pass” that an exhibitor wishes to make at the end of a class must be made in the same direction as the horses were moving when the line-up was called.

Any exhibitor who changes direction will be disqualified. This is an important safety measure to prevent collisions as the horses proceed to the line-up.

Mane – three types of manes are considered:

1. Natural Full Mane, trimmed at the poll
2. Trimmed Mane, with forelock trimmed as well
3. Artificial Mane (allowed only for Fine Harness Horses)

A mane that has not been trimmed recently and shows normal growth which allows for a ribbon to be plaited into the mane, will be considered as long enough, thus a full mane. The use of glue or any other artificial material to keep or hold the ribbon in the mane will NOT be allowed.

Five- Gaited Horses – are shown with a full mane, trimmed at the poll.

Three-Gaited Performance Horses – are shown with a trimmed (roached) mane and forelock. (this rule is for all ages and at all shows – National and Regional)

Three (3) year old Three-Gaited Horses - are shown with a trimmed mane and forelock. Trimming of mane for 3-gaited performance horses, is NOT optional. (AGM decision Aug 2026)

Natural Mane and Tail Horses - are shown with a full mane, trimmed at the poll.

Pleasure Horses – are shown with a full mane, trimmed at the poll.

Park Horses - are shown with a full mane, trimmed at the poll.

Novice Three-Gaited Horses - Trimming of the mane will be optional.

Harness Horses - are shown with a full mane, trimmed at the poll. An Artificial mane will be allowed.

Mane – Walk & Trot horses > specific rules apply here

Refer to Section W – (Walk & Trot) for more information regarding the above, and others.

Manners – The manners of horses will be of primary importance in judging Children's and Ladies' Horses. Horses disrupting any class due to bad manners will be pulled in immediately and disqualified.

Measurement – The height of a horse is described by a measurement referred to as a „hand“ that equals four inches. One inch is equal to 2.54 centimeters thus making one `hand` 10.16 centimeters.

Measuring Hooves - A hoof is measured from the skin line, down the front face and including the pad but not the shoe. See section J. Pleasure Horse Division and section D. Breeding Classes.

Measuring a Horse – A smooth and level surface, preferably a concrete slab (if available) will be used. This facility is available at the Bloemfontein Show Grounds, next to the collecting ring Steward's office. The horse is to stand naturally (not stretched) on all four legs vertical to the body. Ideally the back of the hock should be in a vertical line to the point of the hindquarter or buttock. The head must be lowered enough to show the highest point of the wither. There will be no appliances on the horse besides the bridle and/or halter and the handler will not interfere with the horse in any way to prevent it from standing in the correct way. A measuring stick with a crossbar is to be used. The stick is to be placed vertically, next to the horse on the level surface. The crossbar is placed on the highest point of the wither without the application of undue pressure upon the wither.

Medal Classes – Medal Classes is offered in each province for the sport of Saddle Seat Equitation. Exhibitors competing in this division are asked to do rail work and individual work so that Judges may assess their skills.

Scores are awarded and the rider's scores are used in the selection of members for provincial Saddle Seat Equitation Teams; this is done on an annual basis. Riders may compete in as many Saddle Seat Medal Classes as they choose but only their two top scores will be used to determine the rider's over-all score.

Rider's must ride Saddle Seat in Medal Classes and may ride any appropriate registered horse. Boerperde, Arabians and Fresians are examples of other appropriate breeds.

Namibian Exhibitors – Please refer to Eligibility – Namibian Exhibitors, page 7.

Narcotics – Please see section D. Prohibited Substance Rule.

Natural Mane and Tail Horses – Natural Mane and Tail horses are performance horses that are shown with natural full manes and tails that have never been cut. They are shown as Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited or Fine Harness horses and are subject to the Cross-Entry rules. See Cross Entries in this section. See section J.

Nerve Cords – The use of nerve cords is prohibited.

Novice Horse -- A Novice Horse is a horse that is five (5) years and over and is ready to change divisions.

An example of this is a horse that has only shown in the Harness Divisions and needs to change to the Three-Gaited Division or a Five-Gaited Horse that is ready to change to the Three-Gaited Division. The Novice „year“ gives the horse time to adjust to the new division competing with similar horses. See rules regarding Novice Horses below.

NOVICE HORSES - FIVE-GAITED:

A Five-Gaited Novice Horse is a horse that has never been shown in a Five-Gaited class at any Regional or S.A. National Championship show. A novice Five-Gaited Horse may compete in the Novice Five-Gaited class for a period of one year (starting from the day following the S.A. National Championships).

At the end of the period the horse may compete in the Novice Five-Gaited class at the S.A. National Championships. This will be the horse's last Novice class.

During the year period the Novice Horse may not compete in any other Five- Gaited class. Any Novice Horse that competes in other Five-Gaited classes at any Regional Show or at The S.A. National Championships before the period has ended is no longer eligible for the Novice class and will be disqualified.

A Five-Gaited Novice Horse is only eligible to compete once at the S.A. National Championships Show as a Novice Five-Gaited Horse, after which the horse may move on and show in other Five-Gaited classes as well as the Five-Gaited Grand Championship class (if he/she was placed in his/her Novice class) or, exhibit in a preliminary Harness class to qualify for the relevant Harness Grand Championship class.

NOVICE HORSE - THREE-GAITED

A Three-Gaited Novice Horse is a horse that has never been shown in a Three- Gaited class at any Regional or S.A. National Championship Show.

A Three-Gaited Novice horse may compete in the Novice Three-Gaited class for a period of one year (starting from the day following the S.A. National Championships). At the end of the period the horse may compete in the Novice Three-Gaited class at the S.A. National Championships. This will be the horse's last Novice class.

During the year period the Novice Horse may not compete in any other Three- Gaited class. Any Novice Horse that competes in other Three-gaited classes at any regional show or at the S.A. National championships before the period has ended is no longer eligible for the Novice class and will be disqualified.

A Three-Gaited Novice Horse is only eligible to compete once at the S.A. National Championship show as a Novice Three-Gaited Horse, after which the horse may move on and show in other Three-Gaited classes as well as the Three Gaited Grand Champion class (if he/she was placed in his/her Novice class) or, exhibit in preliminary Harness-, Park- or Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail classes to qualify for the relevant Grand Champion class.

Trimming of the mane of a Novice Three Gaited Horse is optional. However, in the Three-Gaited performance classes, trimming of the mane are mandatory.

Novice Horses – Re: National Championships Show – Once a Novice Horse has competed in the Novice Class (either Three-Gaited or Five-Gaited) at the National Championships show and was placed, may only then be entered in the respective remaining classes of the Championships.

Outside Contact – Any person, handler, parent, or trainer entering the arena and handling a horse without the permission of the Ringmaster will result in the disqualification of the exhibitor. Any physical contact from outside the arena will result in disqualification.

Outside Interference – Any spectator/person next to the arena acting in any manner which is intended to gain the attention and/or amplify the performance of an exhibiting horse, which in the sole discretion of the Ringmaster be to the prejudice of co-exhibitors, may result in such exhibiting horse be disqualified, and the person/spectator so acting, as well as the exhibitor or responsible person, be prosecuted.

Park Horses – Park Horses are Three-Gaited performance horses that are Shown in the Park Horse classes and presented with emphasis on manners, style, over- all finish and quality. A Park Horse’s performance is to be animated and graceful at all gaits. Note Cross-Entry rules in this section and see Section G Three-Gaited Division for more information regarding Park Horses.

Pacing – Pacing is the lateral movement of horse’s legs in perfect unison where both hooves on one side on the horse are on the ground at the same time. This movement creates a bumpy and uneven ride for the rider as opposed to the smooth ride when a horse is racking true. Many horses have the tendency to pace, and it is up to a skilled rider to correct this situation. Pacing continuously in a class is a disqualification and the tendency to pace is a severe discrimination. This rule must be strictly applied.

Permission of Ringmaster – Permission of the Ringmaster is needed after pulling into the middle of the arena for repair of broken equipment or other problems.

Pleasure Horse Classes – *Refer to section K. Pleasure Horse Division for rules.* The Pleasure Horse, Western Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Show Hack and Pleasure Horse Equitation classes will be judged on a four beat, strait, true and flat-footed walk. All walks are judged both ways of the ring.

Pleasure Horse Classes – **Shoes** - Pleasure Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs. The length of hoof with or without pads is 12.5 cm, shoe excluded.

Pleasure Horses competing in Western Pleasure, Country Pleasure and Pleasure Horse Equitation classes must be plain shod as required in the Western/Country Pleasure classes.

Pleasure Horse Tails – Permanently set tails are strictly forbidden in the Pleasure Horse Division. Any evidence that shows a horse may be wearing a tail set in the stable will lead to disqualification.

Pleasure Horse Turn-out – Refer to section K and note that Pleasure Horses cross-entered into Equitation, Children’s Classes and Breeding Classes will be turned-out like Pleasure Horses as described in Section K3. This means that tail braces and top tails may not be used.

Pleasure Horse Turn-out – SSSA – Pleasure horses may wear humane tail braces and top tails in SSSA Equitation Trials, but they are strictly forbidden in any other Pleasure Horse division.

Posting – Riders must post the trot. Bumping is a disqualification. The Judge must SEE the exhibitor post. This rule MUST be applied, and the guilty exhibitor will be pulled in for ignoring this rule. There will be no announced warnings about this transgression and Judges will disqualify offenders.

Postmortem – The death of any horse on any show grounds must be reported to the Show committee and/or Sub-Union Committee. The Committee reserves the right to demand a veterinary certificate and/or postmortem in order to establish the cause of death. This information will be forwarded to the Saddle Horse Breeders' Society.

Professional Trainers – Professional Trainers may not ride horses in the Pleasure Horse division. Professional trainers may participate in the Show Pleasure Horse Classes. (Junior Horses) See section K Pleasure Horse Division.

Prohibited Substances – See section D. Prohibited Substances Rule.

Qualification: Horses - National Championships:

Only horses that qualify under the following conditions will be allowed to enter classes in the National Championships.

1. The horse must participate in at least one class at any of the nominated shows as published by the Society/Unions annually *(Board decision Sept 2026)*
2. In Hand horses, Junior horses (2,3 & 4 years old), Walk Trot- and Novice horses are exempted from this rule
3. Show Hack, Country Pleasure and Country Western horses will be exempt, as standard shows do not always offer these classes.
4. Sick or injured horses that could not participate at any of the nominated shows may request exemption. A vet's supporting document will be required on or before the closing date for entries of the National Championships as indicated on the entry form.
5. Mares who have foaled since the National Championships may request exemption.
6. Any horse that has lost a shoe or had any other incident eliminating that horse from participating in the qualification class at a qualifying show. Permission or ratification of the Ringmaster will be needed, confirming the above, thus allowing the horse to qualify for the National Championships.
7. On request permission may be granted for exemption from qualification for the National Championships by the Board or the Management Committee. Each request for exemption must be judged on its own merits. This rule will apply with immediate effect.

AGM decision August 2025.

Qualifying for Grand Championship Classes –

Horses must qualify for the Open Grand Championship classes through preliminary classes in their respective divisions. Horses may not qualify for the Open Grand Championship classes in the Children's divisions.

Qualifying for Ladies and/or Gentleman Grand Championship Classes -

A lady must exhibit a horse in any relevant class (not necessarily in a Ladies Class) to qualify a horse for the Ladies Grand Championship classes.

A Gentleman must exhibit a horse in any relevant class (not necessarily in a Gentleman only Class) to qualify a horse for the Gentleman's Grand Championship classes.

Qualifying for Children's Grand Championship Classes -

At the National Championships: Horses must qualify for Children's Grand Championship Classes in the respective children's divisions.

At Regional Shows: When a show offers Children Grand Championship classes in their respective divisions, it is mandatory for children to enter these Championship classes once they have qualified. Only at a regional show that does not offer a Children Grand Championship Class in a particular division, will he or she be allowed to enter in the respective Open Grand Championship classes.

Qualifying for Children's Grand Champion Park Horse Class-

At Regional Shows: If a child enters in the open Park Horse Class to qualify, he/she will then not be allowed to enter in the Children's Grand Champion Three Gaited Class. The child can then only enter in the open Grand Champion Park Horse Class.

Children's Park Horses may enter in the Three-Gaited Children's classes if there are no Child Park Horse classes at a show. If a Child's Park Horse Class is presented and the child qualifies his/her horse in that class, but there is not a Children's Grand Champion Park Horse Class, the exhibitor can then either enter into the Child's Grand Champion Three Gaited Class or the open Grand Champion Park Horse Class.

Qualifying for Amateur Grand Champion Classes -

An Amateur must exhibit a horse in any relevant class to qualify for the relevant Grand Championship Class (to be presented by an amateur). Only horses presented by an Amateur can qualify in the respective division for entry into Amateur Grand Championship Classes.

Once they have qualified, the exhibitor can then either enter in an Amateur Grand Championship Class **or** an Open Grand Championship Class with an Amateur up, but never both.

Professional Trainers may not qualify a horse that will be shown back in an Amateur Grand Championship Stake by an Amateur.

Quarter Boots – An exhibitor will only be allowed two time-outs for the refastening of quarter-boots. Quarter-boots may be removed or replaced should the problem continue. However, after the second time-out, any further time required will be on the exhibitor's own time and the class will not be called for a time-out.

Relaxation, Legitimate – Any relaxation requested for the repair of breakages or re-buckling of quarter boots is regarded as legitimate. The abuse of this for any reason may result in the rider being disqualified. See „Time-Out“ in this section.

Relaxation of Class - If danger is imminent any official can relax a class. Once the judging of a class is done, the Ringmaster, Call Judge or the Call Judge's Steward can relax a class.

Re-Ride – A re-ride must be called for before horses ride the second way of the ring. The request of a re-ride by a Judge will be announced and the request must be supported by two of three Judges. Each horse selected must be nominated by two of the three Judges. Horses selected for the re-ride will ride both ways of the arena on all gaits. A re-ride constitutes a new class. Horses not selected may be excused. The re-ride will consist of a minimum of two more horses than placings required, and the maximum number of horses will be determined by the Judges.

Retire – Permission of the Ringmaster is needed for an exhibitor to retire before the completion of a class.

Ribbons – Horses with full manes must be shown with ribbons in their manes. Ribbons in the forelock or attached to the bridle are optional. Western horses and Country Pleasure horses will also show with ribbons in their manes. (*AGM decision 2022*)

Rig – Stallions in breeding classes must have two visible testicles. A rig will be a disqualification.

Shoes: re Loss of Shoe - Any exhibitor's horse losing a shoe during a class must move his or her horse to the center of the arena, dismount and will be excused from the class, however, there may be certain extenuating circumstances.

Any horse losing a shoe resulting in the horse not being able to finish a qualifying class, may remain in the arena and join the line-up with permission of the Ringmaster. The exhibitor will then request permission from the Ringmaster to enter the Grand Championship. No additional or extra fee apart from the entry fee will be payable (See “Bad Luck” page 2)

Any horse losing a shoe after the final walk has been called for by the Announcer or after the class has been called to line-up may remain in the line-up to be judged and

is eligible to be placed. Riders must dismount to receive a prize and will not be allowed to take part in the victory round.

Once the exhibitors are in the line-up and a Workout is called, the concerned horse will be excused from the class if the horse is included in the Workout. If the horse is not included, he or she can remain in the line-up and will be eligible to be placed.

Classes will not be relaxed for loss of a shoe.

Shoes: re Loss of a Shoe in the Grand Championship classes– Any exhibitor's horse losing a shoe during a Grand Championship class must move his or her horse to the center of the arena, dismount and will be excused from the class.

However, any horse losing a shoe during the final working gait or thereafter, (1. Three-Gaited and Park Horse classes: the final canter, or additional trot. 2. Fine Harness classes: the final trot. 3. Single Harness classes: the final drive on / show your horse. 4. Five-Gaited classes: the final rack.) or after the class has been called to line-up, may join the line-up to be judged and will be eligible to be placed.

Note: In the event of a horse losing a shoe in the final working gait (in any of the above) and the Judge can't make comparisons between horses, the Judge may use his or her discrimination right and discriminate against the concerned horse.

Riders must move their horse to the center of the arena upon becoming aware of the loss of the shoe during the final working gait or on being ordered to do so by the Ringmaster in order to preserve the well-being of the horse. The rider must join the line-up and dismount to receive a prize and will not be allowed to take part in the victory round.

Once the exhibitors are in the line-up and a Workout is called in a Grand Championship Class and the concerned horse is included in the Workout, this horse will then be excused from the Workout, and remain in the line-up and will be eligible to be placed. If the horse is not included, he or she can also remain in the line-up and will be eligible to be placed. If a horse loses a shoe at any time during the workout in a Grand Championship Class, the horse may join the line-up and may still be placed. However, Judges may discriminate against the horse concerned for failure to complete the workout. *(AGM decision August 2021)*

Classes will not be relaxed for loss of a shoe.

Shoes - re Welfare – Any protrusions, additions or modifications to a shoe extending beyond the generally accepted norms of farriers (broadly described as reasonable extension of a properly balanced hoof) providing sufficient support to the hoof and limb and not placing undue stress and strain on the individual's conformation, will be considered undesirable and detrimental to the image of the Saddle horse and/or Saddle horse Breeders Society and disallowed. Limiting the potential of injuries to the horse because of poor farriery, is considered to be of utmost importance.

Collecting Ring Stewards may prohibit an unreasonably shod horse from entering the arena after consulting the Ringmaster. Judges may also ask such a horse to leave the arena. AGM decision August 2022.

Shoes - re Performance Classes - Total maximum length for horse hooves of ALL performance classes, 15.1 hands included, is 15cm, including the pads, wedges, and leather, but excluding the shoe (iron).

Shoes - re Pleasure Horse Classes - Total maximum length of horse hooves for Pleasure Horse classes is 12.5cm, including the pads, wedges, and leather, but excluding the shoe (iron).

Shoes - re Breeding Classes – Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs.

Shoes Weanling foals younger than 1 year will be shown barefoot.

Shoes Yearlings (older than one year but under 2 years) may be shod with or without pads with an overall length limit of 115mm excluding the shoe. The pad may not exceed 5mm and the shoe not more than 8mm in thickness with a width not exceeding 20mm. Shoe clips will be allowed. When measuring the shoe, it must be measured on the side of the shoe between two of the shoe nails. Two Years old may be shod with pads according to their needs.

Shoes Two-Year-olds - May wear shoes and pads. The shoeing of hind hooves will be optional. BOTH hind hooves may be shod, or BOTH may be unshod. Any shoe that is lost (front/hind) during a class will be subject to the rules regarding the loss of a shoe.

Size of a horse – The height of a horse is described by a measurement referred to as a "hand". (A "hand" is equal to 4 inches and 1 inch is equal to 2.54 centimeters.) Thus a „hand“ equals 10.16 centimeters. Size divisions (classes created for horses of a certain size) are made for horses measuring 15.2 hands (157.48 cm) and under.

Spurs – All exhibitors, including ladies and children 11 years and over may use spurs. Spurs in equitation must be blunt and un-roweled. The obvious use of spurs is a severe discrimination, and the abusive use of spurs will be a disqualification. Spurs are prohibited in the 10-year-old, 9-year-old, and 8-year-old classes.

Stallions – Children may not show stallions in the Children's classes; Children are not permitted to show stallions in any other open class. Gentlemen may show stallions in the Equitation Division, but children may not show stallions in Equitation classes.

Show Hack Class – Please see SHOW HACK in division M.

Substitution of Rider or Driver – Riders/drivers may not be substituted during a class except in the case of illness or injury, and then with the permission of the Ringmaster and one Judge. Substitutions are not allowed in the Equitation division.

Substitution of Rider or Driver – Victory Round – The Ringmaster must ratify a request for substitution of rider or driver for the Victory Round and the substitute must comply with the dress requirements of the class.

Taped Hooves – Horses are not allowed to show with taped hooves.

Therapeutic Class – A class for disabled people has been added and will be part of the program at the S.A. National Championship Show.

Time-Out – A time-out is a pause during a class when horses are called to relax. A time-out is called for due to breakages of equipment or any other unforeseen circumstances. This may only be called for with the permission of the Ringmaster.

Five minutes are allowed for the repair of broken equipment. Exhibitors are not judged during a time-out. An exhibitor is allowed one time-out for breakages or two time-outs for the refastening of quarter boots.

No adjustments will be allowed. When danger of injury or fall is imminent, the fastening or re-adjustment of the Girth will be allowed.

Any other time required for breakages or quarter boots will be on the exhibitor's class time and the class will continue without them at that point.

Traces – Traces on Fine Harness and Single Harness horses are not allowed to be wrapped around the shafts of the buggy. Horses must be harnessed correctly.

Victory Round – Winners will wait in the arena for the victory round, all prize winners must take part in the victory round. First place exhibitors may be assisted during the victory round by a person and are allowed to dry the horse.

Exhibitors must leave enough space so that winners can go out in the correct order. As a courtesy to the first-place winner the second-place horse should not crowd or challenge the first-place horse and so on until the 8th placed horse. Exhibitors will not be excused from the victory round or be allowed to dismount without permission from the Ringmaster. Such permission will only be granted if an exhibitor or a child trained by the exhibitor is to compete in the following class or if there is blood on the horse or a shoe has been lost.

Walk/ Trot Classes – Walk/ Trot classes are offered for junior riders starting their careers in the show ring.

Walk and Trot Division - Is open to any suitable horse (regardless of which division the horse shows in. e.g., Park Horse or 5 Gaited etc.) Any suitable horse will be allowed to participate in this division. A horse showing in a Walk & Trot class will be allowed to cross enter in any other division. Walk & Trot classes will constitute half a class and therefore, a horse will be able to take part in two Walk & Trot classes plus three other classes at the National Championships, but only in two other classes at all other shows. Horses still must be tacked with the correct equipment as required for that specific class.

Walk and Trot Division - Order of Gaits, under 8 and under 10 years – Horses enter the arena at a trot, then flat-foot walk, turn around and flat-foot walk, then trot, flat-foot walk and line-up when requested to do so. Riders are not asked to canter their horses in these classes.

Walk and Trot Division - Handlers – Handlers must attend exhibitors in the line- up in all the Walk and Trot classes for riders 8 years old and under, 9 years old and 10 years old.

Handlers must attend exhibitors in the line-up in all the Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse classes for riders 10 years old and under

Classes available are:

- Walk and Trot Horses, riders 8 years and under. Walk and Trot Horses, riders 9 years old.
- Walk and Trot Horses, riders 10 years old.
- Walk and Trot Equitation, riders 8 years and under. Walk and Trot Equitation, riders 9 years old.

- Walk and Trot Equitation, riders 10 years old.
- Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse, riders 10 years and under.
- Walk and Trot Equitation, Pleasure Horse, riders 10 years and under.
- Walk and Trot Natural Mane and Tail Horse, riders 10 years and under
- Park Horse – Walk/Trot Riding Horse- Riders 10 years and under.

Exhibitors must use a full bridle or a bridle with a combination bit. All other rules regarding the Park Horse classes will apply, with the exception that the participating horses must do a flat-footed walk.

See Section G – (Three Gaited division) for more information regarding Bridles and Bits.

Walk and Trot - Bridles for –

Walk and Trot - riders 8 years and under

Walk and Trot Equitation riders 8 years and under

Walk and Trot Pleasure Horses - riders 10 years and under

Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse Equitation - riders 10 years and under.

Walk and Trot Natural Main and Tail – riders 10 years and under

Exhibitors must use ---

A. a Snaffle bridle with a running martingale or German martingale

OR

B. a Bridle with a Pelham bit. Split reins and Rein connectors and the use of running martingale with the Pelham bit will be optional. A Pelham bit has a broken or solid mouthpiece with two reins attached to a single shank, not longer than 10cm, on each side or one rein when a Rein connector is used. The shank must be measured from the mouthpiece to the end of the shank, rings excluded.

Walk and Trot Natural Main and Tail Horses – riders 10 years and under will have the option of A, B, or full bridle.

Welfare of horses

It should be the goal of every person, no matter what role involved with Saddle Horses, to promote the welfare of the Saddle Horse in general and to ensure that the proper care will always be given to older and retired Saddle Horses.

The Council of the Society, or designated representative/s, have the power and authority when necessary, or when complaints are received from the public or any concerned parties regarding the abuse/neglect of a Saddle Horse, to visit a site where Saddle Horses are being stabled, and to take the necessary steps accordingly. On refusal

of access to such premises, the matter will then be transfer to an institution / authority concerned with such matters.

The show/appointed committee have the right to do inspections of any horse before, during and or after a show. Inspections may also be done at any time before or after a show on any premises where Saddle Horses are stabled. This rule is in addition to the existing rule of inspection of horses in the collecting ring before a class and does not replace the rule.

During a show the inspections will be done in the stables and the trainer/exhibitor/owner must be present and assist. If anyone refuses to have horse checked, the committee has the right to refuse participation of such a horse and/or participant, until further notice. If any horse is found to be neglected, injured or in any condition that will reflect badly on the breed and/or show, the show/appointed committee has the right to refuse participation of such horse and/or participant at any show, until further notice.

A Vet's opinion may be rendered, and the costs is for the owner, but the final decision will be that of the show/appointed committee.

Workout – A work-out may be called between two or more horses upon completion of a class. Each horse selected for the work- out must be nominated by two of the three Judges. Horses shall be shown on all, or any, of the gaits, only in one way of the ring, and must take the rail as they entered the Arena.

The first-place horse need not necessarily be included in this workout. The performance of each horse is considered in conjunction with its performance in the original class. Therefore, a workout is a continuation of the original class. (Board decision June 2024)

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