

GENERAL SHOW RULES

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The person who signs the entry form must be a member of the NSA and accept responsibility for the horse during the show.
2. A horse's age on the first day of the show, is his/her age for the duration of the show.
3. The age of a child on 01 January is his / her age for the rest of the year. Children are classified as being under the age of 18 years.
4. Children under 10 years of age may not take part in five-gaited and senior classes.
5. Children under 12 years of age may not take part in harness classes.
6. Children must be older than 14 years to take part in the World Cup Competitions and older than 12 years to take part in any Rider Ability Competition, unless otherwise stated.
7. Walk / Trot riders under 8 years of age must use a martingale when taking part in events.
8. No stallions may be showed in Children or Ladies classes.
9. A child must, for the duration of the show, take part in the same age groups in showing classes, therefore the child may for the duration of the show participate as a senior, but may under no circumstances revert to showing classes in his/her age groups.
Classes like Children's Fine Harness, Children's Five-Gaited and Natural Mane & Tail which are not offered in all the age groups are not affected by the age group of a rider.
10. Children who take part in showing classes higher than his/her actual age group, may on the same show take part in Rider Ability classes in their actual age group.
11. Lead Rein Classes –
 - 11.1 Results do not count for Regional or any other competition.
 - 11.2 Only for riders 4 – 8 years
 - 11.3 These participants may not enter any other class on the show
 - 11.4 Horse must have the right temperament to participate, safety is a priority.
 - 11.5 A snaffle bit with a single rein, noseband and martingale is compulsory. The saddle must fit the size of the rider and his/her feet must be in the stirrup irons.
 - 11.6 The lead rein must be on the underside of the noseband or over the nose, neatly hidden under the noseband, but not attached to the bit.
 - 11.7 The rider must be able to steer and stop the horse. The handler is only there for safety. Riders may be asked to trot and must do rising trot. Riders who cannot do rising trot, must only walk. The ability of the rider and the suitability of the horse is judged.
 - 11.8 Riders ride in a circle around the Judge, the size of the circle is as large as indicated by the Course Official.
 - 11.9 The handler must be neatly attired in a long pants and tie or appropriate dress and shoes. No short pants or "slip-slop" sandals are allowed.
 - 11.10 Only one handler per competitor.
 - 11.11 Riders attire: Riding pants, shirt, tie, waistcoat with safety hat.
A show hat and jacket are optional.
 - 11.12 Other horse breeds are allowed.
12. Development Classes will be considered should the entries received be sufficient.

13. Walk/Trot classes are open to riders 8 – 10 years.
A Martingale is compulsory and horses must have the right temperament.
Only neatly attired helpers and with the permission of the Course Official may be in the arena.
A rider who is assisted will be strictly judged and it will be to his/her disadvantage.
Helpers may lead the riders out of the class.
Riders must leave the arena at a walk.
Competitors in this category may not take part in other classes.
A Rider Ability and Riding Horse class are offered.
14. Newcomers class for Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited horses 5 years and older is offered.
Newcomers are no longer able to entry this category after they have competed for one year in this category or the moment the horse competes in another class in the same section.
15. A Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class is offered.
Cut tails and tails in a set are not allowed, and the mane hair must be natural except the area between and behind the ears which may be shaved.
Children and seniors may participate and qualify for the respective championships.
Horse may be shown with false tails in the Championships.
16. Children's horses must be good mannered and have good temperaments.
No stallions are allowed.
Judging is on manners, performance, presence, quality and build.
17. Ladies horses must be appropriate for ladies and there is an emphasis on manners.
No stallions.
Judging is on manners, performance, presence, quality and build.
18. Ladies may show stallions in other classes.
19. Handholds are compulsory in ladies and children's harness classes.
20. The same horse may not compete in more than two events per day and four events per show. In-hand and lead-rein classes are not included.
Horse who appear exhausted will be asked to leave the arena.
Such steps by the Judge is indisputable.
21. Banned Equipment -
 - 21.1 bicycle chains
 - 21.2 see under the heading "Inspection Point Official"
22. Procedures for the handing out of prizes: See "Awards Clerk"
23. Time Out – Announcer allows the horses to relax on instructions from the Course Official with permission from the Judge.
This is usually done if something unplanned happens such as an accident or if a horse gets out of control and breaks some of it's tack.
By the breaking of tack, the following applies; collector detaches / quarter boots come loose / bellystring comes loose.
With permission from the Course Official, a helper may enter the arena to attach the item which has come loose or to replace the broken tack.
No adjustments may be made.
24. Changes of rider or driver; - this may only be considered in the case of injury or sickness of the competitor which stops him/her from finishing the class.
25. Contact (help from outside the ring) – Any help from outside of the ring and helpers who enter the ring without permission of the Course Official will lead to the disqualification of the concerned competitor.

26. Fall – Should a rider fall because of a collision, kicking, disturbance from outside of the ring or a slippery track, it will not be a disqualification.
The officials may allow the competitor to continue. Should the rider fall because of the horse's bad behavior or the rider's inability to control the horse, the competitor will be disqualified.
27. Quarterboots which come loose – a class can be asked for time out for the same rider to fasten/fix the quarterboots, after which the horse will have to be ridden without the quarterboots, or will have to fix the problem while the other competitors continue to be judged.
The judge has to see every horse in every gait in both directions in order to judge them, so should a horse miss out on a gait it would be to the competitors' disadvantage.
28. Misuse of time out – the Judge (Course Official?) can disqualify the competitor should they misuse the time out.
The Course Official can give the Judge information that will justify a disqualification or the Judge can make the decision his/herself.
29. Breakage e.g. Coach/Carriage or harness - 5 minutes.
30. Bad Luck – Should a horse lose a shoe, there is a fault with a false tail or a horse cannot continue because of a collision, may the competitor, with the permission of the Course Official compete in the qualifier for the championships.
Should the competitor not be able to stay in the competition he/she may be excused by the Course Official with permission to compete in the Championships.
31. Dismounting – Permission must be obtained from the Course Official to dismount, otherwise it will be considered a fall and thus disqualification.
32. Retire – Permission must be obtained from the Course Official to retire from the competition.
33. Leaving the Arena – Permission to leave the arena must be obtained from the Course Official.
Should a horse or rider be in line to compete in the Championships, permission to leave the arena must be obtained first from the Course Official.
34. Unsightly tails – Horses who lose their tails, will be excused.
35. Blood – Any sign of blood can lead to disqualification. Should the blood be as a result of an accident, the horse must be excused.
Where the blood is as a result of an accident and is only seen in the line-up, the horse must be excused and the competitor can stay in the arena to receive any possible prize.
36. Physical disabilities – horses must be physically able, i.e. must not have a physical shortcoming that prevents the horse from carrying out what is expected from him/her for the duration of the event.
37. Lameness – Horse who are lame or show signs of discomfort because of possible pain, will be disqualified. (Letter from Vet)
38. Blindness – Horses blind in both eyes, may not participate.
Horses blind in one eye may not participate in breeding classes.
39. Cruelty – Excessive use of hands, mouth pieces, whips or spurs, could lead to disqualification.
The Executive Committee can consider disciplinary steps for cruelty outside of the arena, for draw reins, bicycle chains, elastics and hackamores.
It is the responsibility of all horse owners and riders to ensure that the best possible image is maintained.
Spurs may be used by all riders, including ladies and children over 12.
In Equitation, blunt spurs may be used. Obvious misuse of spurs will be judged negatively.
Excessive use will lead to disqualification.
40. Ears – No wires or tying of ears is permitted. Inspection Point Official may inspect horses.

41. Ginger – Prohibited – disqualification.
42. Rising Trot – Riders must do rising trot when trotting. It must be a prominent movement for the judge to see.
Continuous bumping on the horses back will lead to disqualification.
43. Pacing – A horse which continuously paces will be disqualified. Horse who tend to pace will be seriously discriminated against.
44. Short-Gait – Horses with an imprecise short-gait will be disqualified.
Should a competitor ignore the instruction to do a short-gait, the Judge, by indicating the Announcer, will again request a short-gait. Should the competitor still ignore the request and not change the horse's gait to short-gait, this will count against him/her in the judging.
45. Clarity of gaits – horses must carry out the gaits with clarity in both directions. An unwillingness to do this will lead to disqualification.
46. 5-Gaited walk – As only the first walk to the trot is judged, competitors may use the subsequent walks to better their position on the track or to collect the horse, but may not stand still for the time of the walk.
47. The bandaging of horses' legs and hooves is not allowed, unless the Show Committee decided to allow it during a show due to rain/wet conditions.
48. Manners – is of utmost importance during children and ladies classes.
Horses interrupting children's classes will immediately be taken out of the class. Horses interrupting ladies classes will be harshly judged.
49. Horses acting dangerously – horses who refuse/stop, disrupt the flow of movement in the class, tend towards the centre of the arena, repeatedly refuse a gait, jump or kick, will be asked to enter the centre of the arena and then be asked to leave the arena.
The decision rests with the Judge and the Show Official.
50. Dangerous actions by the rider– a Rider who repeatedly hinders the flow of the other riders, by cutting them off, riding between the railing and other riders or disturbs the Judge and Officials, will be disqualified.
51. Competitors in open classes – Stallions may be showed by ladies in open classes.
Children under 10 years of age may not compete in these classes.
52. Harness Classes – Horses must be trained to stand obediently and sponsors must be able to have their photo taken with the horse without the assistance of a handler. Handlers must be neatly attired, no logos or names of studs are allowed on their clothes.
53. Work-out – May be required between two or more horses at the end of a class. Horses who are already placed by the Judge do not need to take part.
Horse may be required to do certain gaits in one or both directions.
A horse's display in the work-out is advantageous to his/her showing in the class.
54. Re-ride – Must be announced before the horses turn around. It is a new class.
At least two more horses than the number of placings must participate. Other horses are excused while the numerically announced horses take their places as a walk. Horses are shown in both directions.
55. Prohibited Tack – Blindfolds, closed blinkers, fire extinguishers, crackers and shackles. Any other methods or tack/equipment which could blemish the image of the Saddle Horse industry.
56. Judges Attire – Men: Tie and jacket / Ladies: Jacket with skirt or long pants. In accordance with what is expected from competitors.

57. Honorary Round – Must be in order of placings.
It is too late for the horse in second position to convince the Judge.
If you wish to leave the arena at a fast triple, then you must leave the required spacing yourself.
58. Attire – Riders and Drivers – See as per appropriate classes.
All attire will attest for good taste. The following is not appropriate in the arena, ruffles, string ties, large bowlers, large flowers, suits without waistcoat, gaudy colours, dirty clothes, shoes which are not properly tied.
Formal attire must not be worn before 18h00.
59. Attire – In-Hand class – Showmen/ladies and helpers must be neatly attired, in long pants, button up shirt and tie. Shirts hanging out and riding pants which have been tucked into long socks are not acceptable.
60. The rules as set out in the SA Rule Book 2008 for breeding classes, 5-gaited, 3-gaited, Fine Harness, Single Harness and Equitation classes, except where we do not offer the same classes.
Classes are offered according to the number of available participants, but in line with South Africa.
Junior in hand e.g. less than 3 and driving classes less than 5.
61. The following categories of the S.A. Rule Book are accepted as part of the Organization's rules.
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| 61.1 | Breeding classes | |
| 61.2 | Five-gaited division | Classes offered are not included in the Organization's rules. |
| 61.3 | Three-gaited division | Classes offered are not included in the Organization's rules. |
| 61.4 | Fine-Harness division | Classes offered are not included in the Organization's rules. |
| 61.5 | Single-Harness division | Classes offered are not included in the Organization's rules. |
| 61.6 | Equitation Division | |
62. Horses becoming sick or dying during a show **must** be examined by a vet at the owner's cost, sickness and/or cause of death must be reported to the Show Committee.
63. When participants are called to present themselves, they must move in the same direction as they were originally moving. Participants who move against the flow of the other participants will be disqualified.
64. A cryptorchid (*stallion which has retained a testis after castration*) may not be showed in the in-hand classes.
65. 3-Gaited horses should preferably be shown with short mane hair. Should 3-gaited horses be shown with long hair, the hair should be plaited with ribbons.
66. Sponsors must be treated with respect, especially during the receiving of prizes.
67. Limitations on the shoeing of foals – weaned foals are presented barefoot.
Yearlings may be shod with a normal iron shoe and a padding of 5mm is allowed, but the total length may not be more than 115mm.