



SECTION C

GENERAL SHOWING RULES

1. General Rules and Information

Accountable Person - The 'accountable person' is the person who signs the entry form, has to be a member **or a show member** of the Saddle Horse Breeder's 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 Saddle Horse Breeders' Society's website and of which the English version is the official version.

Adjustments – Tack – Tack adjustments are not allowed during a class.

Age – Children – A child's age is determined by the age of the child on the 1st day of January each year. Whatever age is attained on the 1st of January is the age used for that child 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 any Open or Five-Gaited class at any show.

Age – Children – Single Harness – No children under the age of 18 will be allowed to show in the Single Harness division.

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 ESSASA 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.**

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 and Five Gaited and Fine Harness Classes 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 rider is any person over the age of 18 years who is a member of the South African Amateur Saddle Horse Union.

Animated Walk, Five-Gaited – In Five-Gaited classes 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).

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins are *prohibited* in the collecting ring and 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 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.

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. In such instances there will be no additional entry fee to pay.

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

Blindfolding – Horses may not be blindfolded 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.

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

Blood – Any evidence of blood on a horse during a class will result in the horse being excused immediately from the arena. The ‘bad luck’ rule will apply, (the entry (horse/rider) will not be disqualified and will have the option to enter and show 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/re-ride be called then the ‘excused’ horse will be disqualified from the class but the ‘bad luck’ rule will apply.**

Breakages – Collecting Ring – If a breakage/accident occurs in the collecting ring and the gate to the main arena is still **closed** the exhibitor will be allowed a 5 minute repair time. If the gate to the main arena is already **open** then an exhibitor experiencing a breakage/accident **will not** be granted a 5 minute repair time. No ‘Bad Luck’ rule will apply and the exhibitor will have to withdraw from the class. Note that the gate to the main arena is only open for a 2 minute period while a class enters. See ‘Gate, Time Rule’ in this section.

Breeding Classes – See section E for the rules regarding Breeding Classes.

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.

(See Walk and Trot in this section)

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 under 19 years of age on the 1st day of January during the year in which the show is held. The specific age of the child will determine the age group in which they may participate. See the rule regarding ‘Age – Children’ in this section.

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.

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. The Collecting Ring Steward checks exhibitors and their horses for correct equipment, dress and may assist in identifying possible cross entries. Collecting Ring Stewards may check/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 accidents or other causes, will be given 5 minutes to repair **providing** the gate has not yet opened for the class to enter. After the gate has opened time **will not** be given for repair.

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, Children’s classes 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** cross enter between age groups at a show regardless of any circumstances.

HARD HATS for riders 10 YEARS AND UNDER

(a) 8yr AND UNDER COMPULSORY - 3 point basic hard hat

(b) 9 yr and under 10jr' classes optional

(c) the rule is mandatory with immediate effect from 1st October 2012

(d) dress remains as it is defined in the rules.

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 years old to 14 years old.
- 15 years old 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 years old to 14 years old.
- 15 years old to 18 years old.

Cross-Entries – Five-Gaited Horses – Equitation – Five-Gaited horses may cross-enter into 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 into the Three-Gaited Equitation division.

Five-Gaited horses may not cross-enter into the Walk and Trot Horse division for riders under 8 and under 10 years (See section G5: Three-Gaited Division: Classes, Age, Height, Gender and Status Division, page 4.)

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail - Fine Harness:

- **May cross-enter into Fine Harness performance classes.**
- **May not cross-enter into the Pleasure Horse Division.**
- **May not cross-enter into 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 into Five-Gaited performance classes.**
- **May not cross-enter into the Pleasure Horse Division.**
- **May not cross-enter into 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 Championships they must qualify in the Five-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class.**

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail–Three Gaited:

- **May cross-enter into the Park Horse classes.**
- **May not cross-enter into Three-Gaited performance classes.**
- **May not cross-enter into the Pleasure Horse Division.**
- **May not cross-enter into 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 Championships they must qualify for the Grand Championship in the Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class.**
- **They may cross-enter into the Fine Harness Division 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. 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 Three-Gaited Park Horses and Three-Gaited performance classes, Pleasure Horse classes or Five-Gaited classes. Three-Gaited Park Horses may enter the relevant In Hand classes and cross enter into 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 into Equitation Classes, Children’s Classes and Breeding Classes. However, there will be no cross entries between: Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited Classes with the exception of Equitation. See rule regarding **Cross-Entries – Five-Gaited Horses – Equitation.**

Cross-Entries – Three-Gaited Park Horses – There will be no cross-entries between Three-Gaited Park Horses and Three-Gaited performance classes, Pleasure Horse classes, Five-Gaited classes. **Park Horses may cross enter into the Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail classes if the horse’s tail has never been cut or set in any way.**

Cruelty – Any extremes regarding the use of hands, bits, spurs, or whips will result in disqualification.

Dangerous Behaviour of Horse – Any horse that quits, disrupting the flow of traffic in the class, runs to the centre, continuously refuses a gait, bucks, kicks or acts in any other uncontrolled manner will be brought to the centre of the arena and excused.

Dangerous Behaviour of Rider – Any rider who continuously disrupts a class by poor control of their horse such as cutting other exhibitors off from the rail, charging between the rail and another exhibitor, deliberately bumping or harassing another exhibitor, Judge, or Steward will be disqualified.

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 post mortem 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 counter clockwise 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 – Permission of the Ringmaster is needed for an exhibitor to dismount for any reason so as the action is not regarded as a possible fall during the class.

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 colours, dirty suits and boots, jodhpurs not fastened securely under boots, and formal clothes before 6:00 PM are not in good taste.

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 – All horses must be registered with the Saddle Horse Breeders' Society of South Africa. All exhibitors must be members of the Saddle Horse Breeders' Society of South Africa as a breeder or a 'show' member. All exhibitors must be **members (with fully paid membership)** of their respective sub-unions in order to show at the SA National Championship Show in Bloemfontein. All exhibitors, according to their status, need to be members of either the Professional Trainers or the Amateur Union. Junior exhibitors (**children**) must be **members**

(with full paid membership) of a sub-union to participate in **both** Regional Shows as well as the SA National Championship Show at Bloemfontein.

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.

Exhibitors are required to be either a breeder or a show member and declare *their status as either a Professional Trainer, Amateur or Junior exhibitor.*

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.

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

Entry Limitations - A horse may be entered into 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 – ESSASA – Only horses competing in the **ESSASA** 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 in 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.

Entry Limitations – Walk and Trot Classes – A horse may be entered in a total of 4 Walk and Trot classes at any show; however, if the horse is entered into any other class besides the Walk and Trot division it will be limited to only three classes. An example of this would be 2 Walk and Trot classes and one other performance class. This limitation excludes In Hand (Breeding) classes.

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.

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 – Any Judge will be asked to stand down if a family member of his/her immediate family wishes to participate in a class. A qualified, senior Judge will stand in for that class.

Fire Extinguishers, Fire Crackers – The use of fire extinguishers and firecrackers is 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.

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 centimetres. Therefore 1 'hand' equals 10.16 centimetres.

Handholds – Exhibitors in Children’s and Ladies’ Fine Harness classes must use handholds on the reins. (Loops on reins).

Handlers – Please note that we have an obligation to our sponsors. May of them would like to have a win picture with a 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. The handler is not meant to appear in the photograph.

Handlers – Dress - Handlers (men) must be neatly dressed in a solid colour/white dress shirt with tie and long pants, women may dress differently but in good taste.

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.

Height Limit Classes (15.1 hands and under) – Any horse entered in this division must measure 15.1 hands or under when fully shod for show purposes. A horse measuring 15.1 hands is equal to 61 inches tall. 61inches times 2.540 centimetres equals 154.94 centimetres. It is the responsibility of the person

entering the horse (the ‘accountable person’) to comply with the rule that requires the horse to measure 15.1 hands or under.

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 15.1 (154.94 centimetres) a second Steward will be asked to measure the horse, if the horse should again measure taller than 15.1(154.94 centimetres) the case will be referred to the disciplinary committee and a penalty of **R2000.00** 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-backed Horses – All low-backed or hollow-backed horses will be disqualified from Breeding (In-Hand) classes. They will be discriminated against in Fine and Single Harness classes.

Humane Braces/Tails – Any horse that loses a humane brace/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/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.**

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, to be shown in Ladies Classes. Ladies' horses are judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.

Stallions are not permitted in this division; only mares and geldings may be shown. Only ladies over the age of 18 years may compete in the Ladies' division. A lady rider/driver may only show a stallion in the open division.

Lady – Definition for female persons intending to compete in the Ladies division at the show - A 'lady' is regarded as a female person, 19 years of age or over on the 1st day of January occurring in 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.

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.
- Horse must be SUITABLE. The safety of the child is of paramount importance.
- Tack:
 1. Snaffle bridle with martingale, single rein and noseband.
 2. Saddle to suit the size of rider and feet must be in stirrup irons.
- The lead rein must be fixed to the noseband (underneath the chin). The lead rein may not be attached to the snaffle. A lead chain may be unobtrusively passed under the noseband 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 tackies.
- Only one attendant per horse.
- Riders to be appropriately dressed. Riding pants, shirts, waistcoats and ties. Jackets are optional. It is recommended that riders wear hard riding hats rather than bowlers or men's hats. This class is NOT to be held at the S.A. National Championship Show. Show societies may consider having one Lead Rein class including all breeds at shows.

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 in the same direction as the horses are 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 direction the horses are moving when the line-up is 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 – Artificial – Three-Gaited Park Horses are NOT allowed to show with an artificial mane.

Mane – A trimmed mane is compulsory for all Three-Gaited horses, with the exception of the Novice, Park or Three-Gaited Pleasure horses at the National Championship Show. This rule will not be strictly applied at the Sub-Union Regional Shows although Park Horses and Three-Gaited Pleasure horses must always show with full manes at any show.

Mane – Novice Horses – Trimming the mane of a Novice Horse in the Three-Gaited division is optional.

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 centimetres thus making one 'hand' 10.16 centimetres.

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 are 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 like all other horses. 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 old and is ready to change divisions. An example of this is a horse that has only shown in the Fine Harness Division and needs to change to the Three-Gaited Division or a Five-Gaited Horse that is ready to change to a Three-Gaited Horse. 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 Classes 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 class at the S.A. National Championships.** This will be the horse's last Novice class. Thereafter the horse may move on to the open classes.
- **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 Championship Show as a Novice horse.

Novice Horses – 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 Novice Three-Gaited horse** may compete in the Novice Classes 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 class at the S.A. National Championships.** This will be the horse's last Novice class. Thereafter the horse may move on to the open classes.
- **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 horse.

Novice horses must be 5 (five) years old.

Novice Horses – Re: National Championship Show – Once a Novice Horse has competed in the Novice Class (either Three-Gaited or Five-Gaited) at the National Championship Show it may be entered in the respective open classes at that show.

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 – 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 Rules – Refer to section K. Pleasure Horse Division for rules.

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 – ESSASA – Pleasure horses may wear humane tail braces and top tails in ESSASA 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.

Post Mortem – 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 post mortem 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.

Prohibited Substances – See section D. Prohibited Substances Rule.

Qualification – Horses - National Championships – Horses must qualify to show at the National Championships:

- A horse must place from first to fifth (1-5) in a class at a Regional Show to qualify for the National Championships each year.
- Two, three and four year old (junior) horses need not qualify.
- Horses showing in the In Hand (Breeding) classes need not qualify for the In Hand (Breeding) divisions.
- Each case concerning a horse that was injured during the season and thus unable to qualify will be handled on merit.

Qualifying 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. This is with the exception of the Pleasure Horse division where a horse may qualify for the Championship in the Children’s Pleasure divisions except the 10 and under division where horses do not canter.

Qualifying Classes – Children – Horses must qualify for Children’s Grand Championship Classes in the respective children’s divisions. Children’s Park Horses may enter into the Three-Gaited Children’s classes if there is no Park Horse division at the show. Children’s Park horses may enter into the Children’s

Grand Champion Three-Gaited class if there is no Grand Championship for Park horses at the show.

Qualifying Rule, S.A. National Championships, horse presented by an Amateur –Amateurs must exhibit their horses themselves in any relevant class to qualify for the relevant S.A. National Championship Stake (to be presented by an amateur). Only horses presented by an Amateur can qualify in the respective division for entry into an Amateur Grand Championship Stake. 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.

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. Only Western horses and Country Pleasure horses are shown without ribbons in their manes.**

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

Roaring - A noisy breathing condition that is not a disqualification but may well be a discrimination against a horse in the ring.

Rule Changes – No Rule changes may be made after the closing date for entries of any show including the National Championship Show.

Scratched Entries – Failure to show a horse that is entered into a class during the National Championships without cancelling the entry at the show office will result in a fine that will be deducted from prize money.

Serviceable Soundness – Horses must be serviceably sound. Serviceable Soundness is described as horses having no physical disability that may affect the horse's use or performance during the time it is being judged in the arena.

Shackles – The use of shackles on any show grounds is prohibited.

Shoes – Any horse losing a shoe 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 request permission from the Ringmaster to enter the Grand Championship. In that instance there is no extra fee payable. See 'Bad Luck'.

Any horse losing a shoe during the final walk or after the class has been called to line-up, in either a qualifying class or Grand Championship class,

may remain in the line-up to be judged and is eligible to be placed. Riders must dismount to receive a prize.

If a shoe is lost during the final walk and another gait is requested or a re-ride/workout is called the horse will be excused from the class and cannot be placed but the 'bad luck' rule will apply. If this occurs in a Grand Championship Class and a re-ride/workout is called then the horse will be excused.

Any horse that has lost a shoe during the final walk or after the class has been called to line-up may not participate in a work-out and will be excused and cannot be placed.

Shoes re Breeding Classes – Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs. Weanling foals younger than 1 year will be shown barefoot. Yearlings (older than one year but under 2 years) will be shown with hack plates with a pad + - 5 mm and an overall length limit of 115 mm. 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 – 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 centimetres.) Thus a 'hand' equals 10.16 centimetres. Size divisions (classes created for horses of a certain size) are made for horses measuring 15.1 hands (154.94 centimetres) and under.

Spurs – All exhibitors, including ladies and **children 11 years and over may use spurs**. Spurs in equitation must be blunt and unrowelled. 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 and ladies may not show stallions in Equitation classes. Ladies may show stallions in all suitable classes except the Ladies' classes. Ladies may show stallions in the open Pleasure classes although children are not permitted to show stallions. Gentlemen may show stallions in the Equitation Division.

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 with the permission of the Ringmaster. Substitutions are not allowed in the Equitation division.

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 programme 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. 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 wound** 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.**

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 and Trot Classes – Walk and Trot classes are offered in the Three-Gaited division for junior riders starting their careers in the show ring. All Walk and Trot class routines are as follows: horses enter the ring at a trot and then are asked to do a flat-footed walk, then they are asked to turn around and continue to do a flat-footed walk, then trot, then flat-footed walk and come in to line up. Riders are not asked to canter their horses in these classes. Handlers **must** attend riders in the line-up in all of the Walk and Trot classes. 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 - Bridles - 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 for riders 8 years and under as well as in the Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse and Pleasure Horse Equitation classes for riders 10 years and under.

Workout – A workout may be called between two or more horses upon completion of a class. Each horse selected for the workout must be nominated by two of the three judges. Horses may be asked to perform any or all of the gaits, one or both ways of 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.*

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