

HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION of VIC. INC.

GUIDELINES FOR SHOW JUDGES

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The HRC AV abides by the generally accepted traditional practices of showing. However, unlike the open arena, it caters for the inexperienced horse and rider through to the experienced combination and in a variety of traditional and non-traditional events. The emphasis is on participation, friendship amongst competitors and mutual support both during and outside of the competition.

Horse and rider combinations are assessed according to their ability and level of training and the competition is governed by approved Association Rules, Guidelines and suggestions. A brief summary of the rules follows. Judges are required to familiarise themselves with the HRC AV Event Rules, Level Assessment Guidelines and Showing rules.

Any type of saddle is permitted with the exception of side saddles. Snaffle bits are to be used up to level 2. Level 1 and Advanced assessed combinations have the option to use a simple double bridle or Pelham (including a Rugby Pelham). A riding whip or cane not exceeding 75cm in length is permitted at all levels in all mounted classes. Dressage whips exceeding the maximum length may be used in led classes. Where a jump is used in a class, the height and width specifications covered in the Showing rules must be observed. Boots designed to protect the horse's legs, including bell boots, may be worn in classes where an obstacle is used.

Competitors must wear their Club colours whilst competing and must wear riding boots and approved helmets at all times whilst mounted. Riding jackets are not permitted. In Led classes, a helmet is to be worn and enclosed footwear with ripple soles, including running shoes, is allowed.

LEVEL ADVANCED

Horse on the bit at all times showing suppleness, collection, impulsion and submission without apparent effort of the rider. Established medium/collected paces. Flying changes. The rider will have an effective, correct position and soft, still, sympathetic hands. The standard of ring craft will be high the overall picture will be confident and harmonious.

LEVEL 1

Horse on the bit at all times showing suppleness, collection, impulsion and submission without apparent effort of the rider. Medium/collected paces. Rider to will have a steady position with soft, still, sympathetic hands. The rider will have correct positional lines.

LEVEL 2

Horse working consistently from behind into a steady contact and showing willing acceptance of bridle. Work will show impulsion, energy and lightness. Clear lengthened paces in trot and canter. Rider will sit to the trot and have soft, still, sympathetic hands and steady seat. The rider will have correct positional lines and the combination will be working together to show a picture of harmony and enjoyment.

LEVEL 3

Horse working in outline but not always consistently. Lengthening stride at trot and canter. Halt through walk. Rider can demonstrate sitting trot, have still hands and be working towards an effective seat. They should show correct positional lines and correct application of the aids. Horse not yet showing engagement and lightness but should be willing and steady in their work.

LEVEL 4

Horse showing acceptance of the basic aids and working in a natural outline. Rider showing fairly good balance and able to pick correct diagonals and leading legs but not expected to demonstrate sitting trot. The horse should be moving forward willingly and the combination will show an overall picture of being happy in their work.

LEVEL 5

For combinations who may be inexperienced. Can execute changes of pace and be in control of their horse. May not recognise correct diagonal or leading leg in canter. Martingale permitted but spurs are not.