



HRC AV

HORSE RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

SHOWING RULES

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Section 8 Rules for Showing Events

PREAMBLE

The following Rules have been adopted by the Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria (HRC AV) and must be followed by all bodies running Official HRC AV Shows, Gymkhanas or Rings.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Judge, Ground Jury or the Organising Committee to make a decision in a sporting spirit whilst adhering as closely as possible to the intention of these Rules, so providing fair conditions for all Competitors.

These Rules have been drawn up in the broadest possible spirit to allow Organising Committees the fullest freedom in the management of their Events and in the preparation of their Programs. The Rules are established so that Competitors may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions.

These Rules are only complete when read in conjunction with all Rules and Regulations of the HRC AV.

1. SHOWING SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. The term “**Ring**” refers to a group of Classes aimed at a specific group of exhibitors.
- 1.2. The term “**Arena**” refers to an area designated for the conduct of scheduled Classes.
- 1.3. The term “**Champion**” refers to the horse or rider adjudged the outstanding exhibit/rider from a specified group of Classes.
- 1.4. The term “**Pony**” refers to any horse measuring 14hh and under.
- 1.5. The term “**Galloway**” refers to any horse measuring over 14hh and not exceeding 15hh.
- 1.6. The term “**Hack**” refers to any horse measuring over 15hh.
- 1.7. The term “**Novice**” refers to a horse and/or rider who has not won a similar Class at ANY Show or Gymkhana including Pony Club (private Gymkhanas excepted).

2. WHO MAY CONDUCT OFFICIAL SHOWS, GYMKHANAS

- 2.1. In addition to Event Rule 4, any Society, Body, Group or Organisation may include a Ring for HRC AV Members at an Event.
- 2.2. Such Ring shall only be eligible for Official HRC AV status if the operation of the Ring is run or overseen by a Club which is a financial Member of the HRC AV.
- 2.3. As a condition of approval for the Event to be deemed Official, the Organisers are required to appoint a Judge from the Official Judges’ List and a Steward conversant with HRC AV Rules in any HRC AV Ring.

3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 3.1. The Organising Committee reserves the right to alter, divide or cancel any Event or Class in the case of insufficient or excessive entries.
- 3.2. Entries may be accepted on the day at the discretion of the host club with the exception of Top Team Trophy Events and shows where the overriding body requires pre-entry. The method of entry must be specified on the Program.
- 3.3. A horse may be exhibited/ridden by one person only in a HRC AV ring.

- 3.4. It is forbidden, under penalty of disqualification, for anyone other than the nominated rider to be astride the horse during the Show, being from initial entry to the Show grounds until the completion of all HRC AV classes. Any person may work the horse on the lunge.
- 3.5. Where a class states Level, combinations must compete at their current assessed Level for Showing (Rider classes excepted – refer rule 3.6).
- 3.6. In Rider classes only, riders must compete at their highest ever attained level for Showing and/or Dressage on any horse. Riders who have placed in senior open rider classes at Royal, State or National Level shows or who have placed at Medium level and above in dressage are to be classed as Advanced level riders. Riders who have competed at Royal, State or National level in senior open rider classes or who have placed at Elementary level dressage are to be classed as Level 1 riders. Riders who have achieved 500 or more points in HRC AV Showing on any horse are to be classed as Advanced riders.
- 3.7. A valid Membership and Showing Performance Card must be presented to the Card Secretary prior to competing on the day. Competitors unable to present valid card/s may be permitted to compete Hors Concours (HC) at the discretion of the host Club. Event rules 5.2 and 8 apply. The judge is to be notified of the status of riders competing HC.

4. JUDGES

- 4.1. Only official HRC AV Judges may be used to judge at official HRC AV events unless there are extenuating circumstances and prior written approval is given by the HRC AV office. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in loss of official status. (refer Showing Rules Appendix 1 for listing of all HRC AV Judges).
- 4.2. A list of Official Judges is contained in Showing Appendix 1.
- 4.3. One Judge is to officiate in each Ring or set group of Classes. Supreme Champion awards are to be decided by a panel of Judges consisting of the presiding Judge for each Competitor in line for the award.
- 4.4. Competitors must not compete under Judges who:
 - a) Is the current owner of the competitor's horse.
 - b) Has owned the competitor's horse within the past 12 months.
 - c) Is an immediate relative of the competitor or,
 - d) Is a trainer or pupil of the competitor

NOTE: A Trainer is defined as a person who regularly (i.e. Six hours of lessons or more in the previous three months) trains or coaches a horse, rider or Combination (not necessarily for remuneration). Instruction received at Club rallies is not in breach of this Rule.

- 4.5. At official Shows incorporating Showing Clinics, a Judge may instruct in the clinic or judge officially at the Show but may not do both at the one event.

5. STEWARDS

- 5.1. Clubs running Official HRC AV Shows or hosting a HRC AV ring must provide a minimum of a card/result secretary, gate steward and ring steward for each ring.

6. WARM UP AREA

- 6.1. An area must be set-aside for Competitors to use for warming up purposes.
- 6.2. Competitors are permitted to warm up in arenas prior to commencement of the first Class in that Ring unless otherwise advised by the Organising Committee.

7. COLLECTING AREAS

- 7.1. An area adjacent to the entrance to each arena should be kept free of obstructions to allow safe access and exit of Competitors.

8. ARENAS

- 8.1. Competition arenas are to be clearly defined. The area should be as level as possible and separated from the public. Bunting should be used when necessary to avoid intrusion.
- 8.2. A table, seating and shade should be provided for the Judge and Stewards' use.
- 8.3. The recommended minimum ring size is 50m x 40m.

9. DRESS

- 9.1. Refer Event Rule 9.

10. SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

- 10.1. Only saddlery and equipment specified in the Event/Dressage Rules or as set out below is permitted in Official Shows, Gymkhanas and Rings. It is the Competitors' responsibility to abide by the Rules. Failure to comply will result in elimination.
 - 10.1.1. Simple double bridles and Pelham bits are optional for Level 1 and Advanced combinations only.
- 10.2. Saddlery and equipment guidelines are provided for Competitors in Smartest on Parade Classes (see Showing Appendix 2).
- 10.3. A hacking cane or whip, not exceeding 75cms in length, may be carried in all ridden/rider Classes (see Showing Appendix 2). When measuring a whip, the length of the flap/tassel is to be included.
- 10.4. Boots (including hoof boots) are only permitted in Classes where a horse may be expected to jump an obstacle. Bandages are not permitted in any Class.
- 10.5. Stallions are permitted to wear an in-hand bridle in led classes.
- 10.6. Nosebands must never be tightly fixed. Dressage rule 14.3 applies.
- 10.7. Ear bonnets are not permitted. Ear plugs may be used.
- 10.8. Any form of protective skin covering on the horse, such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not, is strictly forbidden at an event when the horse is under saddle during training, warm-up and competition and will entail elimination.

11. GEAR CHECK

- 11.1. The Steward, Judge or Ground Jury may perform a spot gear check at any time and a competitor's failure to comply with the Rules will result in elimination. The Steward shall consult the Ground Jury if doubt exists regarding any item of saddlery or equipment.

12. CONDUCT OF CLASSES

- 12.1. Competitors must at all times obey the instructions of the Judge and/or Steward. Failure to comply with a direct instruction may result in elimination.
- 12.2. The Judge may choose to judge a Class in divisions. He/she may also judge the Class on the circle and/or by including a workout. The maximum number of ridden combinations on the circle at any one time in a class must not exceed 10.
- 12.3. The Judge has the right to decline to award prizes if he/she deems the Exhibit/s unworthy.
- 12.4. The Judge has the right to decline to discuss reasons for his/her decisions. In the event of a protest or dispute the Judge must not be approached by the Competitor involved or his/her representative.
- 12.5. Guidelines on how Classes may be judged are available for Competitors (See Showing Appendix 2), however these guidelines are in no way binding and the Judge has ultimate responsibility for deciding the format of the Class.
- 12.6. Competitors are to conduct themselves at all times in a fair and sportsmanlike manner. The Ground Jury will be notified immediately of any alleged infringements and has the power to disqualify any offenders from the Event. Disqualification will also result in forfeiture of prizes.
- 12.7. Upon observing a breach of the Rules, the Judge or Ground Jury has the power to eliminate or disqualify the Competitor from the Class or whole Event.

13. LAMENESS

- 13.1. In the case of marked lameness, the Judge may inform the rider that he or she is eliminated from the Class.
- 13.2. Any horse deemed unsound by the Judge or Ground Jury will not be allowed to continue in the Event unless overruled by a Vet or an appropriate veterinary certificate is supplied.

14. PROGRAMS, CLASSES AND AWARDS

- 14.1. Judges for each Ring are to be listed on the Program.
- 14.2. Only Classes listed in Showing Appendix 5 may be scheduled for Official Events. Smartest on Parade, Rider, Ridden Exhibit and Mount Suitable for HRCav must be offered by Level.
- 14.3. On the Program, Classes may be divided according to height of horse, age of rider, novice/open and/or Showing Level of the horse/rider combination. Only the above compulsory Classes offered by level will attract points.
- 14.4. Championships or High Point Awards may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Committee and must be noted in the Program.
 - 14.4.1. Novice Classes are ineligible for High Point Awards.
 - 14.4.2. A Novice winner is ineligible for a Championship unless the Combination has won in an Open/Level/Age or Height Class.
 - 14.4.3. Where a High Point Award is offered, the method of determining the award is to be advertised in the program. Full interim High Point scores shall be posted for a minimum of 20 minutes to allow for the lodgement of protests in the event of scoring errors as per Event rule 26.7.

- 14.5. Ribbons or sashes must be awarded to a minimum of 4th place in all Classes except in the case where the Judge deems Exhibitors unworthy.
- 14.6. Wherever possible sashes or equivalent prizes should be awarded for placings in Smartest on Parade Classes and Championships.
- 14.7. Equal placings may be awarded at the discretion of the Judge.
- 14.8. In Classes where an obstacle is used the height shall not exceed 600mm for all Levels except Level 5 where the height must not exceed 450mm. Where a spread fence is used, the width of the fence shall not exceed the height.
 - 14.8.1. Cross bars and fan jumps where the height or width may differ in the centre of the obstacle should be measured off centre at two thirds the length of the pole towards the higher end.
 - 14.8.2. Information relating to show jumping obstacles can be referred to under Show Jumping rules 11 -17.

15. OFFICIAL MEASURING

- 15.1. The Judge or Ground Jury may direct a competitor to have their horse measured by the appointed Official.
- 15.2. The height then advised shall stand for the remainder of the Event.
- 15.3. Failure to comply with the Judge or Ground Jury's direction to have a horse measured or failure to accept the Measurer's decision will result in elimination from any height Classes.
- 15.4. Competitors providing current EA or RAS Height Certificates for their horse are exempt from Rules 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3.
- 15.5. Other forms of documentation specifying height are not acceptable

16. SHOWING JUDGE ACCREDITATION

- 16.1. Selection criteria for Showing Judges:
 - Financial Member of an affiliated HRC AV Club.
 - Current Working with Children Check or be exempt from the requirement to have a WWCC.
 - Assessed at Level 3 or above for Showing.
 - Over 18 years of age.
 - Must have access to the HRC AV Manual.
 - Candidates who do not ride must provide proof of experience or qualifications of equivalent criteria.
 - Previous Showing experience.
 - Sound knowledge of HRC AV Rules.
 - Candidates will be required to undertake a closed book written examination. The pass mark is a minimum of 80%.

16.2. *Accreditation requirements*

- 16.2.1. Prior to commencing the accreditation process, prospective judges must submit a completed Expression of Interest form to the HRCav. Upon receipt of an Expression of Interest, the member shall be registered as a New Candidate and be provided with a list of accredited Showing Judges, including approved Senior Judges.
- 16.2.2. New Candidates must co-judge with a qualified HRCav judge in an official HRCav ring on at least 3 occasions within 12 months of their initial registration. The third occasion will constitute a practical assessment and must be undertaken with an approved Senior Judge. Co-judging sessions must incorporate a range of classes across all levels and the Candidate must obtain prior approval from the host Cub and the Presiding Judge. All co-judging is to be recorded on the Showing Judge Log sheet at Appendix 10.
- 16.2.3. Each Presiding Judge is required to complete an evaluation form providing feedback on the Candidate's progress. The Candidate shall receive one copy of the completed form; a second copy shall be retained by the judge and a third copy shall be forwarded by the judge to the HRCav office within 14 days. Evaluation forms are available from the HRCav office.
- 16.2.4. Upon completion of co-judging prerequisites, the Candidate will forward their completed Log Sheet and the appropriate exam fee to the HRCav office within 14 days. The Showing Subcommittee will consider the Candidate's application and advise them accordingly. Should further training be deemed necessary, the Candidate shall be so advised. Candidates who complete the co-judging prerequisites to a satisfactory standard shall be offered the opportunity to undertake the closed book theory examination at a time and venue determined by the Showing Sub Committee. The pass rate for the closed book exam is a minimum of 80%. Further training and/or theory examinations are to be completed within a time frame determined by the Showing Sub Committee.
- 16.2.5. Candidates with significant prior judging experience may be granted an exemption from the first two co-judging prerequisites but must satisfy all other requirements.
- 16.2.6. New Candidates who fail to complete training and exam requirements within the set time frames may be deregistered and will be required to apply in writing to recommence the accreditation process.

16.3. *Maintaining Accreditation*

- 16.3.1. To remain on the official HRCav Judges' List, Judges must attend a refresher clinic and complete an Open Rule Book exam once every two years. Refresher clinics will be advertised in the HRCav newsletter.
- 16.3.2. All judges must have a current WWCC card (unless exempt).
- 16.3.3. When due to attend a refresher clinic, a reminder letter will be forwarded to the Judge. If the Judge fails to attend a refresher clinic before the end of the year, accreditation may be withdrawn. Exemptions due to exceptional circumstances will be considered upon written application to the Showing Sub Committee. To be reinstated, former judges will be required to complete all accreditation requirements.

16.4. *Showing Judge Probationary Period*

16.4.1. Newly accredited Showing Judges shall be required to undertake their first 6 appointments at official HRC AV Shows in a probationary capacity. During this period the following conditions shall apply:

- a) A Probationary Judge may not conduct training / co-judging sessions for trainee Judges.
- b) Probationary Judges may not accept appointments to judge an official ring at TTT Showing, the Royal Summer Horse Show or Barastoc Horse of the Year Show unless the appointment is approved by the Showing Sub Committee.

A Probationary Judge may be subject to visits while officiating, by a person nominated by the Showing Sub Committee for the purpose of reviewing their judging performance. The nominated person shall report back their findings to the Showing Sub Committee. The review may recommend that the Probationary Judge undertake further training, or any further action deemed necessary. This may and can include withdrawal of accreditation.

16.5. *Senior Showing Judges*

16.5.1. Appointment as a senior Showing Judge may be offered to accredited HRC AV Showing Judges satisfying the following criteria:

- Minimum 5 years' service as HRC AV Showing Judge
- Judging experience at major HRC AV official Shows
- Acknowledged professionalism in the conduct of their duties as a judge
- Other significant, relevant experience as a judge, competitor or official.

16.5.2. Selection Process:

- The nominator shall be a current Senior Judge.
- Nominations must be made in writing to the HRC AV Showing Sub Committee and include supporting information / recommendations.
- Should the Showing Sub Committee support the nomination, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

16.5.3. Role of the Senior Judge. A Senior Judge:

- is permitted to undertake assessments of show judge candidates at their final practical judging examination,
- may be invited to contribute to the writing and assessment of new candidate and refreshing judge exam papers,
- may be invited to conduct refresher clinics/sessions for current Showing Judges and
- may be invited to contribute to the review of Showing rules and be called upon to provide feedback to the Showing Sub-Committee on issues related to Showing from time to time.

16.5.4. Senior Judges will be required to undertake an open book exam every second year, and participate in a practical refresher, either as facilitator or participant.

16.5.5. To retain senior status, the Showing Judge must maintain accreditation and be willing to undertake the duties listed under rule 16.5.3.

16.5.6. Recommendations to withdraw senior status shall be made by the Showing Sub Committee and become effective upon endorsement of the recommendation by the Executive Committee of the Association. A Senior Showing Judge may resign from the role by notifying the Showing Sub Committee in writing.

17. ROYAL SHOW QUALIFICATION

17.1. Qualifying requirements discontinued 1st July 2008.

Appendices

1. Official HRC AV Showing Judges
2. Guidelines for Show Competitors
3. Guidelines for Show Judges
4. Victorian Top Team Trophy Showing Championship Program
5. Classes Recommended for a Show Program
6. Guidelines for Running an HRC AV Show
7. Guidelines for other Organisations Running HRC AV Rings
8. Showing AND Membership Card Checklist
9. Show Steward/Show Results Sheet
10. New Candidate Log Sheet