

The Australian Stock Horse Society Limited

EVENTS HANDBOOK

Codes of Conduct, Responsibilities,

Obligations and Ring Etiquette for

Judges, Stewards, Volunteers and Competitors

Section 2

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This Handbook contains the Rules and Regulations for Australian Stock Horse Events and Competitions for THE AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE SOCIETY LIMITED, as approved by the Board of Directors, and is effective from 1st April 2004.

Please note that from 1st April 2004, all prior regulations will be superseded and are null and void. The Board shall determine any question not provided for by these regulations. Alterations to the regulations by addition, deletion or amendment will be effected by resolution of the Board.

NOTICE

Branches and Management Councils may only conduct the events listed in this Handbook. The Board of Directors must approve any other event being considered by a Branch or Management Council prior to advertising the said event. The Society's Public Liability Insurance Cover will not cover Branches and Management Councils that act outside Approved Events or run events in conjunction with other committees or organisations.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. CORE VALUE STATEMENT – Judges, Stewards, Volunteers and Competitors

- 1.1. The Australian Stock Horse Society exists to:
 - 1.1.1. Promote the development and acceptance of the Australian Stock Horse as an equine breed of excellence and importance;
 - 1.1.2. Provide service to all facets of the Australian Stock Horse industry;
 - 1.1.3. Guarantee that the welfare of the Australian Stock Horse is protected at all times; and
 - 1.1.4. Ensure that all individual members of the Society, and those who serve as Directors, Breeders, Competitors, Coaches, Judges, Stewards and Volunteers act with honesty and integrity in all of their dealings with the Society, other members, clients and the public at large.

JUDGES

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1. UNDERTAKINGS

- 2.1.1. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Judges undertake that they will act in accordance with the Core Value Statement at all times.
- 2.1.2. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Judges undertake to conduct themselves in a manner fitting and proper to those who are accorded the honour of officiating as ASH Approved Judges.
- 2.1.3. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Judges will endeavour to give totally honest, fair and unbiased opinions at all times, to set exemplary standards in behaviour by being polite and courteous and to award prizes according to the type of class and the performance of horses on the day.
- 2.1.4. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Judges will at all times be totally conversant with the description of an Australian Stock Horse type as laid down in Rules and Regulations of The Australian Stock Horse Society.

2.2. UNDERSTANDING

- 2.2.1. It is the opinions of Judges which eventually set the standard for the Australian Stock Horse Breed, just as it is their behaviour which sets the standard of conduct for competitors, volunteers, other officials and eventually the public perception of The Australian Stock Horse Society. Judges therefore have certain responsibilities and obligations to the Society that must be maintained at all times. It is understood that the Rules and Regulations of the Society as are adopted for competitions, and the behaviour of Judges will establish the means for ensuring Judges' compliance with the Core Value Statement and the Undertakings.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1. It is the Judge's opinion which eventually sets the standard for the breed just as it is the Judge's behaviour which sets the standard of behaviour for competitors, and eventually the public's opinion of The Australian Stock Horse Society.
- 3.2. Judges have a certain responsibility and obligation.
- 3.3. The Judge must give a totally honest, fair and unbiased opinion at all times.
- 3.4. The Judge must award prizes according to the type of class and the horse's performance on the day.
- 3.5. The Judge must arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement time and advise organisers on arrival.
- 3.6. The Judge must be clear, concise, courteous and tolerant with Stewards and competitors.
- 3.7. The Judge should set the standard, not only in dress by being clean, neat and tidy but also in behaviour, by being polite and courteous.
- 3.8. Judges should refrain from smoking or using mobile telephones whilst judging.
- 3.9. Judges must not be under the influence of alcohol or mind altering drugs.
- 3.10. The Judge should not be a competitor, exhibitor or inspect or discuss any horse entered in the event in which he/she officiates.
- 3.11. A Judge shall not adjudicate any class in which immediate members of his/her family, or any of his/her horses are competing. He/she shall not adjudicate any class in which his/her trainer is competing. The onus is on the competitor to withdraw from the class. He/she shall not adjudicate any class in which any of his/her clients or clients of members of his/her family are competing unless the business relationship has been terminated with the client at least three months prior to the show. A further exception will be where the member of the family has a training establishment that is not on the same property on which the Judge resides. No Judge may use a horse that he/she will judge at that show. Note: For the purpose of this Handbook "immediate family" shall include the following – husband, wife, parent, child, in-laws of the same relation as stated above, grandparents, de-facto relations, brother, sister and persons cohabiting.
- 3.12. No horse may show before a Judge that has been sold by the said Judge or his/her employer within a period of three months prior to the show. A horse shall be deemed to have been sold when both parties have signed a contract of sale, and the horse in question domiciled under the control of the purchaser or his agent. Full payment of the purchase price or full transfer of the registration papers need not have been completed provided that proof of the intended payment or transfer has been supplied to the ASH Society.
- 3.13. A Judge shall not during the period of the show at which he is judging, be a house guest of a person who is competing at the said show.
- 3.14. No one may show before a Judge who has received, or has contracted to receive, a remuneration for the sale, purchase or lease of any horse, from the date of signing the lease to, from, or for the account of said person within a period of three months prior to the show.
- 3.15. No one may show before a Judge who boards, rides or trains (for horse show purposes) any horse under the said person's ownership or lease, within a period of three months prior to the show. (Stud fees excluded).

- 3.16. No one may show before a Judge who has remunerated said persons for board or training of any horse for show purposes within a period of three months prior to the show. No person who has been given tuition by a Judge may show within three months before this Judge or conversely, no Judge may adjudicate his tutor until a three month period has elapsed. This rule is for individual tuition only. Training days and clinics organised on a group basis by other than the Judge, are exempt.
- 3.17. Exemption to points 3.11 to 3.16 may be granted by the Board in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.18. The Judge's decision is final. He/she has the authority to place a horse in whatever position in a class he/she chooses.
- 3.19. Once a class has been judged it shall not be re-judged or the Judge's score sheets altered unless initialled by the Judge.
- 3.20. No Judge shall determine eligibility for registration of any entry in the ring. This is the responsibility of the Committee or Steward.
- 3.21. A Judge may request any person or horse to be removed from competition for bad conduct.
- 3.22. A Judge shall make sure that sufficient horses are placed for a class regardless of show ribbons being awarded. NOTE: One extra horse should be lined up in case of a protest being lodged and upheld.
- 3.23. Judges must be conversant with patterns and courses prior to all events.
- 3.24. A Judge may bring to the attention of the Steward any piece of equipment which is not legal, or is considered inhumane.
- 3.25. Where events not listed in this Handbook are encountered, they are to be judged according to the rules laid down by the Committee on the day.
- 3.26. When a competitor makes a request through the Ring Steward or other show officials for the Judge's opinion concerning their horse, the Judge shall give his/her opinion courteously and with sincerity, in the presence of the Ring Steward or official but the Judge is advised not to enter into a lengthy discussion.
- 3.27. The Judge should never address a competitor by his or her first name.
- 3.28. The Judge should speak to the Steward before events commence to ensure the Steward is aware of his/her requirements and to allow the Steward to update or discuss with the Judge any regulation, rule or programme requirement.
- 3.29. A Judge should endeavour to remain calm at all times while judging.
- 3.30. It is advisable that a Judge has a Steward to act as penciller when scorecards are required as a Judge may miss scoring a movement by looking down to write.
- 3.31. When time permits, after the awards are presented, helpful hints to competitors are encouraged, especially hints or helpful suggestions to youth competitors.
- 3.32. A Judge should always be aware that the fall of a horse or rider or loss of control in a class is disqualification.
- 3.33. Judges should not judge, the same event, at more than one Grade 3 or Grade 2 show within a twelve month period.

STEWARDS

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1. UNDERTAKINGS

- 4.1.1. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Stewards undertake that they will act in accordance with the Core Value Statement at all times.
- 4.1.2. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Stewards in recognition of the importance of stewarding in the success of an ASHS event or competition, undertake to conduct themselves in a manner fitting and proper to those who are accorded the honour of officiating.
- 4.1.3. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Stewards will endeavour to set exemplary standards in behaviour by being polite and courteous, to know what is required of them in the context of an ASHS event or competition, to be totally honest and fair at all times, to know the Rules and Regulations of The Australian Stock Horse Society, to work co-operatively with fellow Stewards and to support the efforts of those who are officiating as Judges.
- 4.1.4. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who act in the capacity of Stewards will at all times be totally conversant with the description of an Australian Stock Horse type as laid down in Rules and Regulations of The Australian Stock Horse Society.

4.2. UNDERSTANDING

- 4.2.1. As The Australian Stock Horse Society further refines its competition and event standards and operations, the role of those who officiate in positions other than Judges will become increasingly important. These are the persons who assist in the presentation of competitions, who can be relied upon for their knowledge and experience, who can eventually become Judges and who are often the direct link between competitors and Judges. Stewards therefore have certain responsibilities and obligations to the Society that must be maintained at all times. It is understood that the Rules and Regulations of the Society as are adopted for competitions, and the proposed continuing development of standards for stewarding, will establish the means for ensuring Stewards' compliance with the Core Value Statement and the Undertakings.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

- 5.1. The Ring Steward is required to organise exhibitors and their horses in the ring area. He/she must be able to keep the programme moving smoothly and be familiar with the Society's Rules and Regulations.
- 5.2. The Steward is to assist the Judge where and when required but must not in any way influence the Judge's decision.
- 5.3. The Steward has charge of the activity in the ring or arena and is to rid the Judge of any unnecessary details.

- 5.4. The Steward shall act as a mediator between the Judge and competitor.
- 5.5. If the class is too large, the Steward will inform the Judge of the numbers so that the class may be divided if the Judge so wishes.
- 5.6. The Steward should assemble the classes promptly to eliminate long delays and keep the programme on schedule.
- 5.7. The Steward shall notify the judge when all horses are present and call his/her attention to those that are absent. The Steward will ensure that the Judge knows how many horses should be placed.
- 5.8. The Ring Steward has the responsibility of checking entries for eligibility, the riders and horses for proper attire and equipment, and, when required, the accuracy of the Registration Papers and Membership which must be current.
- 5.9. Stewards shall not take part, or be seen to take part, in any of the judging. When not actively engaged with duties, the Steward should place himself/herself in such a position as not to interfere with the judging.
- 5.10. The Judge can request the Steward to move and place horses as he/she advises.
- 5.11. If a competitor is not acting in a sportsmanlike manner the Steward, acting upon a request from the Judge, may ask competitors to leave the judging arena. For the safety of other horses, competitors and spectators, the Judge may also require a horse to leave the arena.
- 5.12. After ribbons have been awarded, the Steward should have the placegetters circle the ring or arena for the benefit of the spectators.
- 5.13. Where class sheet cards are used the Steward should see that the Judge's signature is on each card and that it is handed to the Show Secretary.

VOLUNTEERS

6. REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1. Volunteers must be at least 12 years of age and not exceed 70 years of age.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

7.1. UNDERTAKINGS

- 7.1.1. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who serve as Volunteers at any level of the Society, be it Branch, State or National, undertake that they will act in accordance with the Core Value Statement at all times.
- 7.1.2. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who serve as Volunteers at any level of the Society, be it Branch, State or National, undertake that they will act in a manner which brings credit to the values and professional image of the Society.

- 7.1.3. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who serve as Volunteers at any level of the Society, be it Branch, State or National will endeavour to maintain their knowledge of the Society and of the Australian Stock Horse Breed and to set exemplary standards in behaviour by being polite and courteous to all with whom they come in contact.
 - 7.1.4. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who serve as Volunteers at any level of the Society, be it Branch, State or National will at all times abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Society.
- 7.2. UNDERSTANDING
- 7.2.1. Volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the running of all activities of the Society. Together with the Competitors, they underpin the Society and its values. By accepting themselves as an integral part of the operations of the Society, and by undertaking to act at the same level of integrity and honesty as all others in the Society, the Codes of Conduct will cover each and every person involved with the Society.

COMPETITORS

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 8.1. UNDERTAKINGS
- 8.1.1. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who participate in competitions undertake that they will act in accordance with the Core Value Statement at all times.
 - 8.1.2. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who participate in competitions undertake to compete only on animals that are suited to the level of competition, to present themselves and their horses properly prior to and upon entering the ring, to know the rules of the competition and those of The Australian Stock Horse Society and to behave at all times in a sportsmanlike manner and properly and respectfully to Judges, Show Officials and fellow competitors.
 - 8.1.3. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who participate in competitions acknowledge that they accept the individual responsibilities attendant to participating in competitions and to competing only at a level to which they are qualified.
 - 8.1.4. Members of The Australian Stock Horse Society who participate in competitions will at all times abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Society.
- 8.2. UNDERSTANDING
- 8.2.1. Persons who compete in Australian Stock Horse competitions are a most critical component of the industry. These are the persons who present the image of the Society to the public. By undertaking to accept the Core Value Statement and the Undertakings, Competitors commit to continue the practice of the majority of current participants who present themselves and their horses in an exemplary manner, who possess the right attitude and who know and abide by the rules.

9. RING ETIQUETTE

- 9.1. As a Competitor you are on display to spectators as well as to the Judge and it should be remembered that, each time you set foot into the ring, you are there as a representative of The Australian Stock Horse Society. Ring manners, consideration of other competitors and for the Judge, are based on everyday good manners.
- 9.2. Listen to the Judge's instructions and try to carry them out to the best of your ability. If you don't understand an instruction, ask for clarification.
- 9.3. Look what is happening around you. Be ready to work out when your time comes.
- 9.4. Learn from experience what it is that shows your horse off best.
- 9.5. Line up on the left of the first horse called in - not at random.
- 9.6. Don't get too close to other horses in the ring. If you bunch up the Judge cannot see you - so find a place by yourself.
- 9.7. Don't carry on a conversation in the line-up; wait until the event is over.
- 9.8. Never address the Judge by his/her first name. Judges should always be addressed via a Steward and by title Mr, Mrs, Miss etc.
- 9.9. Don't go to sleep or slouch in the line-up. Wait until your time comes and stay quietly in line and never smoke.
- 9.10. Above all, never be critical of the Judge. Regardless of what your opinion is of his/her judging - keep it to yourself. A Judge can only really please one person per event and is usually there voluntarily. Remember you were not forced to show your horse in front of him/her.
- 9.11. All competitors are asked to remain in the line up at all times. Once judging has commenced, horses will be eliminated if leaving the judging line.