

JUDGES'
POCKET HANDBOOK
2025

WELCOME

Dear Judge

This Pocket Handbook has been published in a format that can be kept close at hand at events.

It is published annually to ensure you always have access to current rules and regulations.

Please keep this handbook with you whenever judging.

It is an honour to have a position on the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Panel of Judges.

To be appointed as a WPCSA Judge, you have shown that you have the knowledge and experience to represent the Society.

Shows are the 'shop window' for all those interested in the Welsh breed and are often the introduction to the breed for many.

You have a large influence on, and therefore, a responsibility regarding the future of the Welsh breed.

Thank you for giving your time and commitment to the Welsh breed, members and enthusiasts.

Committee of Management

Published by the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc. © September 2025

Wholly set up and printed in Australia

Printed by Metro Print 202-206 Roberts Road Airport West VIC 3042

ISBN: 978-0-9592573-1-1

The Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc

REG NO A0006317F ABN 70 066 732 36

No 20 / 14 - 17 Hogan Court Pakenham Vic 3810

PO Box 762 Pakenham Victoria 3810 Australia

Telephone: (03) 5941 3288

Email: admin@wpcs.com.au

Website: www.wpcs.com.au

“The horse, with beauty unsurpassed,
strength immeasurable, and grace unlike
any other, still remains humble enough to
carry a man upon his back.”

Amber Senti

CONTENTS

Standard of Excellence	5
Welsh Mountain Pony	5
Welsh Pony	6
Welsh Pony of Cob Type	6
Welsh Cob	6
Welsh Gelding	7
Part Welsh Register	7
Children's Classes	8
Class Definitions	9
Snaffle Bits	10
Spurs, Trimming, Clipping	11
Plaiting	12
Working Hunter	13
Harness	14
National Young Judges	15
Workout Diagrams	
Led	17
Ridden	18
Leading Rein	19
First Ridden	20
Child's Pony	21
Ridden Hunter	22
Newcomer	23
Novice Working Hunter Flat	24
Working Hunter Flat	25
Judges' Regulations	26
Record Judging Appointments	30
Judge Requirements	31
Show Regulations	33
Judge's Code of Conduct	46

STANDARD of EXCELLENCE

Animals registered in Sections A, B, C, D or E of the WPCSA Stud Book must be judged in accordance with the breed description contained within the Stud Book.

WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY

Not exceeding 12.0 hh

Section A of the Stud Book

GENERAL CHARACTER

Hardy, spirited and pony-like.

COLOUR

Any colour, except piebald and skewbald.

HEAD

Small, clean-cut, well set on and tapering to the muzzle.

EYES

Bold.

EARS

Well placed, small and pointed, well up on the head, proportionately close.

NOSTRILS

Prominent and open.

JAWS AND THROAT

Clean and finely-cut, with ample room at angle of the jaw.

NECK

Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of matured stallions.

SHOULDERS

Long and sloping well back. Withers moderately fine, but not 'knifey'. The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body.

FORELEGS

Set square and true, and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below knees, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped and round, hoofs dense.

BACK AND LOINS

Muscular, strong and well coupled.

GIRTH

Deep.

RIBS

Well sprung.

HINDQUARTERS

Lengthy and fine. Not cobby, ragged or goose-rumped. Tail well set on and carried gaily.

STANDARD of EXCELLENCE

HIND LEGS

Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped, hoofs dense.

ACTION

Quick, free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front. Hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage and well under the body.

WELSH PONY

Not exceeding 13.2hh

Section B of the Stud Book

The general description of ponies in Section A of the Stud Book is applicable to those in Section B, but more particularly the Section B pony shall be described as a riding pony, with quality, riding action, adequate bone and substance, hardiness and constitution and with pony character.

WELSH PONY OF COB TYPE

Not exceeding 13.2hh

Section C of the Stud Book

The Welsh Pony of Cob Type is a stronger counterpart of the Welsh Pony, with Cob blood. Refer to the general description for Section D of the Stud Book.

WELSH COB

The height should exceed 13.2hh, no upper limit

Section D of the Stud Book

GENERAL CHARACTER

Strong, hardy and active, with pony character and as much substance as possible.

COLOUR

Any colour, except piebald and skewbald.

HEAD

Full of quality and pony character. A coarse head and Roman nose are most objectionable.

EYES

Bold Prominent and set widely apart.

EARS

Neat and well set.

NECK

Lengthy, and well carried. Moderately lean in the case of mares but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions.

SHOULDERS

Strong but well laid back.

FORELEGS

Set square and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearms. Knees well developed with an abundance of bone below them. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped. Hoofs dense. When in the rough, a moderate quantity of silky feather is not objected to but coarse, wiry hair is a definite objection.

MIDDLEPIECE

Back and loins, muscular, strong and well-coupled. Deep through the heart and well-ribbed up.

HINDQUARTERS

Lengthy and strong. Ragged or drooping quarters are objectionable. Tail well set on.

HIND LEGS

Second thighs, strong and muscular. Hocks large, flat and clean, with points prominent, turning neither inwards nor outwards. The hind legs must not be too bent and the hock not set behind a line falling from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped. Hoofs dense.

ACTION

Free, true and forcible. The knee should be bent and the whole foreleg should be extended straight from the shoulder and as far forward as possible in the trot. Hocks flexed under the body with straight and powerful leverage.

WELSH GELDING

No upper height limit.

Section E of the Stud Book.

Welsh Geldings are produced by any of the four sections of the Stud Book and this is noted on their registration certificate ie. Section E Gelding of (A) Breeding. Over height geldings are eligible to be shown in their relevant class.

PART WELSH REGISTER

No upper or lower height limit.

Part Welsh animals have a minimum of 12.5% registered Welsh blood in their parentage, which can come from the sire, the dam, or cumulative from both. There is no restriction on the colour.

Part Welsh vary greatly in type with differing percentages of Welsh breeding. They should be judged as for an open class, based on their conformation and movement and not for Welsh characteristics or traits.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

HANDLER CLASSES

- Handlers 11 years and under must wear approved helmets for all in-hand classes.
- Handlers MUST be 3 years and over on the first day of the show.
- Handlers 3 – 6 years on the first day of the show MUST have a person 16 years and over beside them to compete.
- Handlers 7 years and over on the first day of the show may compete independently.

LEADING REIN CLASSES

- Rider to be 3 years and under 8 years on first day of show.
- Pony to be 12 hh and under.
- Snaffle bit only and lead rein to be attached to noseband.
- No spurs.
- Handler to be 16 years and over and handler only may carry a whip.

FIRST RIDDEN CLASSES

- Rider to be 5 years and under 12 years on first day of show.
- Pony to be 12.2 hh or under.
- Snaffle bit only.
- No spurs.
- Whips, crops and hacking canes length to not exceed 75 cms excluding tails.
- Walk and trot only on the ring.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- Rider to be 5 years and under 18 years on the first day of show.
- Snaffle bit only.
- No spurs.
- Whips, crops and hacking canes length to not exceed 75 cms excluding tails.

The maximum number of ridden combinations on the circle at any one time in a class must not exceed 12. Classes may be judged in divisions. This excludes leading rein classes.

FALLS

- A fall of a rider results in rider disqualification from that class. The rider must not remount in the ring.
- After a fall in the ring or an injury at an event, handlers, riders and drivers must consult the First Aid provider and follow their recommendations before continuing to compete in further classes.

HOT WEATHER

- When the temperature reaches 35 DEGREES, children 12 years and under MUST remove their jackets while competing.

CLASS DEFINITIONS

These definitions apply to led and ridden classes.

WELSH CLASSES

- Welsh only.
- Presented unplaited.

PART WELSH CLASSES

- Part Welsh only.
- May be plaited or unplaited.

WELSH HUNTER CLASSES

- Welsh only.
- Presented unplaited.

A competitor must choose to compete as either a Welsh Hunter, Show Hunter or Show Pony/Horse.

SHOW HUNTER CLASSES

