

JUDGE'S REGULATIONS

June 2026

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure eligibility for a class, and if ineligible, the exhibitor must withdraw.

For showing purposes, an immediate family member is defined as a parent, sibling, child (biological, adopted or marriage/partnership), spouse, grandparent or grandchild.

A THREE-TIER SYSTEM NOW APPLIES with judges advancing from Probationary to Tier 1 depending on judging experience and assessment. Refer to the document "*Do You Want to Become a Judge*" on the website for information about each level, advancement, requirements to remain on the panel and eligibility to judge events.

Judges are responsible for only accepting appointments they are eligible to judge as a WPCSA panel judge according to their Tier status for various disciplines. **Judges may be appointed to different Tier levels for different disciplines. Judges will be held accountable should they accept judging appointments as a WPCSA judge that they are not eligible to judge according to their judge status** (Probationary, Tier 2):

- First breach – an explanation will be required and the judge will receive a letter of reprimand
- Second breach – the judge will be automatically demoted from Tier 2 to probationary or Probationary to non-panel for 12 months after which time the original judge level will be reinstated.
- Third breach – the judge will be removed from the judge panel for 12 months after which time the judge will be reinstated.

Judges are expected to be familiar with and abide by the WPCSA Show Regulations which are updated annually. These can be viewed on the Society website and in each edition of Action magazine.

1. The Committee of Management may at any time appoint a List of Judges comprising such persons as it sees fit to adjudicate events at Royal, district and other shows where the objects and interests of the Society are promoted and encouraged.
2. The Committee of Management may from time to time and at any time:
3. Appoint a person to the List of Judges; and
4. Remove any person from the List of Judges
5. A person who accepts appointment to the List of Judges agrees to be bound by these Judges' Regulations and by the Regulations of the Society as a condition of their appointment. The Committee of Management may at any time remove a person from the List of Judges if that person has, in the opinion of Committee of Management, not observed these Regulations or the Regulations of the Society or their conduct in any respect not in the best interest of the Society.
6. A judge should reply promptly to an invitation to judge at a show and, having made the commitment, honour it. If you are, at short notice, unable to officiate, you should inform the show secretary immediately. Where possible a Judge should accept at least one judging appointment per year.
7. Because judges are representing themselves and the Society, they should always be punctual and look their best, being correctly and neatly attired. A judge should wear a suitable hat.

8. A judge's conduct and behaviour must be beyond reproach and a judge must exhibit propriety and integrity when judging events, and be unbiased and fair.
9. While conducting a ring, the safety of the competitors, spectators, stewards/marshals must be the judge's first consideration.
10. A judge cannot judge and exhibit in the same class "Category" at the same show, with the exception of Futurity, Handler and Young Judges' classes. Category – refer to the standard All Welsh program.
11. A judge cannot judge the same section within 100km radius within a 90 day period unless approved by CO1801M.
12. Once a class has been judged it should not be re-judged
13. A judge must not refer to a show catalogue or steward's list either before or during judging, nor can a judge be in possession of a show catalogue whilst in the ring.
14. A judge should not discuss any exhibitor's animals faults with stewards or other competitors.
15. A judge may order any person from the ring for improper conduct or any other proper cause.
16. If the judge, steward or ringmaster considers an exhibit to be dangerous or acting in a manner that is disruptive they may request that the animal is removed from the ring after issuing one warning.
17. A judge may withhold an award if, in their opinion, no animal is worthy of the award.
18. A judge may request an animal to be measured.
19. A judge may refuse to judge any exhibit they consider to be unsound.
20. A judge may lodge a written complaint concerning the behaviour, demeanour, dress condition and the like (in respect of the exhibitor or exhibit) to the relevant show secretary or secretary of the Society within 30 days.
21. A judge must be prepared to meet any requirements as set down from time to time by the Committee of Management, including but not limited to submission of an Annual Judge Return and Code of Conduct.
22. Exhibits must not be subjected to unnecessary, unreasonable or unjustifiable pain, suffering or injury.
23. Where a judge is aware the judging of an exhibit is an infringement of the rules listed above or the Show Regulations of the WPCSA the judge must refrain from judging that exhibit and the exhibit is to leave the ring.
24. Judges must comply with all legislative, legal requirements and Government health orders current on the day and date of the event to be eligible to judge.

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc Show Regulations as of 1st August 2026

• These Regulations must be followed by exhibitors, judges and stewards. • Where the word 'exhibit' is used in these Regulations, it refers to Section A, B, C, D, E, Foundation Stock or Part Welsh. Where the word 'exhibitor' is used in these Regulations it includes competitors, handlers, owners, lessees, riders, drivers and groomers. •• Where the word 'Welsh' is used in these Regulations, it should be taken to refer to Section A, B, C, D, E & Foundation Stock. ** Age of all horses and ponies to be calculated from 1st August. Every horse foaled before 1st August in any year shall be deemed to be one year old on that date. This shall also apply to Imported horses. Foal/Weanling means a horse less than 1 year of age as at 1st August in the year following its birth. For showing purposes, an **immediate family member** is defined as a parent, sibling, child (biological, adopted, or marriage/partnership); spouse; grandparent or grandchild. **By entering a WPCSA event, the exhibitor / handler has agreed to abide by all WPCSA regulations, codes of conduct and policies. **Indicates new or amended rule (shown underlined).

GENERAL

1. **Owners, handlers and exhibitors are expected to be familiar with the Show Regulations of the WPCSA of Australia Inc. and shall at all times abide by these regulations and other rules and conditions as laid down by the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Australia Inc. (WPCSA). Owners, handlers, exhibitors, volunteers & spectators are expected to be familiar with the relevant state government current health orders & shall abide by all regulations. It is the exhibitors' responsibility to ensure eligibility for a class, and if ineligible, the exhibitor must withdraw. If the judge, steward or ringmaster considers an exhibit to be dangerous or acting in a manner that is disruptive they may request that the exhibit is removed from the ring after issuing one prior warning. If the Show Sub-committee considers any person in attendance at an event is acting in an inappropriate manner they reserve the right to instruct that person to leave the facility and may refuse the person entry to future events.

ELIGIBILITY TO SHOW

2. **Proof of registration** (photocopy, original certificate, digital copy) should be available at all events and be produced when requested. ***At events where swabbing may take place the original or a photocopy may be required.*** Exhibits shown must correspond with the colour, markings and brands/ microchip as per their WPCSA registration papers.
3. Show entries without full payment will not be accepted. Substitution / change of exhibit entered will not be accepted after close of entry.
4. All owners/lessees must be financial members of the WPCSA to exhibit at events run under WPCSA regulations, including non-WPCSA events. Upon sale / change of hands, a pony must be transferred and entered under the name of the new owner who must be a current member. Proof of current membership may be requested and must be provided upon request.
5. No exhibitor may show:
 - An exhibit bred by or leased from the judge or his immediate family in the ring in which the judge is officiating.
 - An exhibit purchased from the judge or his immediate family in the ring in which the judge is officiating, until after a period of 6 months.
 - An exhibit produced by the Judge or his immediate family until after a period of 6 months
 - An exhibit under a Judge where the Judge or immediate family have been rewarded in cash or kind for instruction of handler, rider or driver in the past 6 months.
 - Under a judge where the exhibitor has produced an exhibit for the judge for the purpose of showing, in the preceding 6 months.
 - Under a judge who is an immediate family member.
 - Under a judge where a current lease of a horse is in place between the judge and the exhibitor.
- Under a judge when they are or have been in a **Financial Relationship/Partnership** (excluding stud fees) with that Judge or a member of his immediate family in the past 6 months. (Business Partnerships ***including but not limited to** current - leases, joint memberships or ownership of an animal)
- An exhibit under a Judge who has, or had a financial interest in the exhibit (stud fees excluded) in the preceding 6 months.
- An exhibit in a class under the Judge who has produced an animal for that exhibitor in the previous 6 months.
- A progeny group sired by, or out of a stallion or mare owned by the judge.
6. All exhibits must be registered with the WPCSA and must be shown in the name of the recorded owner or lessee. The name of the exhibitor if not the owner may also be acknowledged at the show committee's discretion.
7. ****All Welsh exhibits born in Australia, registered with the WPCSA and born prior to the 31/07/13 must be branded, all Welsh exhibits born in Australia, registered with the WPCSA and born after the 1/08/13 must be branded and/or micro-chipped or will be ineligible to be shown, with the exception of foals under 5 months of age.** (See reg. 9, 19, 23 & 44 also).
8. Exhibits entered into stallion or gelding classes must be registered as such with the WPCSA. Geldings are shown as Section E of A, B, C, or D breeding and no height limit applies.
9. Foals must be eligible for registration with the WPCSA, with sire and dam's registration details noted on the entry form. All foals must be registered by the required date according to the WPCSA studbook and show regulations. (See reg. 7, 19, 23 & 44 also).
10. Progeny Classes - all exhibits must be entered in their Welsh or Part Welsh in hand class to compete in Progeny classes.
11. An overseas visiting exhibit registered with a recognised Welsh Society, may be eligible to compete at Welsh run shows whilst in Australia, provided the show secretary is advised of the pending visit, and a copy of the exhibit's registration certificate, with proof of membership with that Society is produced to the show secretary. The exhibitor must be provided with a copy of the show regulations, and must abide by the WPCSA show regulations whilst attending the show.
12. ****Exhibitors who have a disability and use a wheel chair or other mobility aid are eligible to compete and must have a competent able-bodied person (over 16 years of age on the first day of the show) present in the ring at all times. If the assisting person requires to speak to officials for the class, they should speak to a steward and not communicate directly with the judge. Any exhibitor in a mobility vehicle must wear an approved helmet while in the ring. At the discretion of the Committee of Management and/or the Show Sub Committee or Judge, or the request of a fellow exhibitor, the exhibits may be judged independently if there are safety concerns. In saddle classes which include an in-hand component, if the rider pro-**

vides evidence of being medically unfit to lead the horse, a replacement handler may be used with prior permission. For the participant's safety and the safety of others, the Committee of Management or the show committee may request an exhibitor to provide a current medical certificate from a doctor or specialist confirming they are safe to participate in an event.

INSURANCE

13. Exhibitors entering exhibits do so entirely at their own risk; it is a condition of entry that no liability of any kind attaches itself to the WPCSA, the Show Sub-committee, or members in any respect whatsoever. All exhibitors must sign a waiver prior to entering the ring.

SHOW SUB-COMMITTEE ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

14. Every exhibitor or competitor shall be bound by and observe the decisions of the Show Sub-committee.

15. **** The Show Sub-committee reserves the right to adjudicate upon entry or upon any dispute or inappropriate behaviour and to make any determination upon any matter relevant to the show. This decision shall be final and not subject to appeal of any kind.**

16. The Show Sub-committee reserves the right to disqualify any exhibit that, in its opinion, appears to be in poor condition at the time of showing.

17. The Show Sub-committee reserves the right to combine classes if there are insufficient entries.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CLASSES

18. **MEASURING:** All exhibits may be subject to measuring. An official measurer may be in attendance. Current EA or SHC height certificates or State Royal Show height stamped numbers are acceptable. All exhibits competing at the ARC Final including the Mini-Championship and Show Hunter Finals must provide a *current height certificate as per the above at the time of entry into the final. (*Current being no more than 12 months old, or a Life Certificate, *except where an exhibit is under 5 years of age* in which case the official certificate must be no more than 6 months old.) In the event of a dispute regarding an animal's height, the WPCSA reserves the right to measure any horse including those holding a current height certificate.

19. Exhibits must have a WPCSA registration number allocated (foals refer to reg. 7, 9, 23 & 44). Exhibits must be shown in the section of the WPCSA Studbook in which they are registered and must comply with the relevant height restrictions (Sections A B C D - excludes Section E geldings). Over height animals, excluding Section E, are not eligible for exhibition at events run under WPCSA regulations.

20. **PART WELSH** are only eligible to compete in classes especially provided for them or classes marked.

21. **PART WELSH** exhibits are ineligible to compete against Welsh animals in Welsh led, Welsh ridden, Welsh harness classes, Welsh championships and Welsh Supremes at WPCSA approved events run under WPCSA rules and regulations (Excludes ARC Mini-Championships). Welsh exhibits are eligible to compete against other breeds for special awards at WPCSA approved events run under WPCSA rules and regulations and approved by the Committee of Management.

22. ****For showing purposes a BROODMARE is a mare 4 years and over which has foaled or is to foal in the current breeding season, (August 1-July 31).** A broodmare can only be shown in broodmare classes in the season they have foaled/are to foal and is not eligible for dry mare classes. The exception to this regulation is if a show does not have specific broodmare / dry mare classes and has a mare class which does not specify whether it is for broodmares or dry mares. A broodmare with a foal at foot under the age of 3 weeks cannot be shown. A broodmare may compete in ridden and harness classes after her foal has been weaned. Fillies

3 years and under cannot be shown with a foal at foot. A DRY MARE IS a mare who has not foaled, and is not due to foal, in the current breeding season (Aug.1 – July 31).

23. ****FOALS:** At all shows run under WPCSA regulations including foal shows, foals under 3 weeks of age cannot be shown. Foals under 5 months of age that are unreg- istered must provide sire and dam registration details on all entry forms submitted. Date of birth or expected date of birth to be provided at time of entry. Foals 5 months and older must be registered to be shown. Foals under 5 months of age and unweaned foals of any age must be accompanied into the ring by their dam. Once registered, foals are eligible for awards, in addition to the specific foal awards, if specified in show programs. (See reg. 7, 9 19, & 46 also)

24. **FOUNDATION STOCK:** Foundation Stock FS, FS1 and FS2 are eligible to be shown once they have a WPCSA Registration Number (registered FS, FS1 and FS2 are eligible for exhibition in Welsh classes).

25. **ALL STALLIONS and COLTS** must be entire and may be subject to a veterinary inspection at any time during the show at the discretion of the Show Sub-committee or designated officials. Stallions must have a WPCSA allocated stallion registration number once they reach four years of age to be exhibited (age calculated on August 1st).

- Are not eligible to compete in Costume, Fancy Dress, Leading Rein, First Ridden or Junior Handler/Ridden classes.

- All colts 2 years and over must be bitted in the ring and the lead affixed to the bit.

26. **NOVICE EXHIBIT** is not to have won first place at any WP&CS Australia event, Royal, Equestrian Australia or Show Hack Council Horse of the Year Show as at the first day of show. •• Excluding Working Hunter Classes (see reg. 60)

27. **LEADING REIN** - pony 12hh and under, rider 3 yrs and under 8 yrs on first day of show. Snaffle bit only, no spurs, lead rein to be attached to noseband. Handler to be 16 yrs and over, handler only may carry a whip.

28. **FIRST RIDDEN** - pony ne 12. 2hh, rider 5 yrs and under 12 yrs on first day of show. Snaffle bit only, no spurs.

29. **CHILDRENS RIDDEN** Exhibits are to be ridden by a child 5 years and under 18 years on the first day of show. Snaffle bit only, no spurs.

30. ****SHOW PONY/HORSE** classes are open to both Welsh and Part Welsh exhibits.

31. For competition purpose, exhibits can **only** compete as either a Welsh Hunter or a Show Hunter or a Show Pony / Horse.

32. **NEWCOMER** - not to have been shown under saddle prior to the 1st January in the current year, must be shown in a snaffle.

33. **GRADUATE** - not to have been shown under saddle prior to the 1st January in the year preceding, must be shown in a snaffle.

CONDUCT OF EXHIBITORS

34. Exhibitors must abide by the Code of Conduct as set by the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc.

35. While in the ring, no exhibitor should wear any item of clothing, badges, caps etc. which may identify their stud, name or any Society panels or associations they are involved in, **excluding the WPCSA Australia.**

36. Exhibitors should ensure they are wearing the correct exhibit number in the class when supplied.

37. **** Judges must not be approached on the day of the show or event. If an unauthorised person / exhibitor approaches the judge in the ring, this may lead to disqualification.**

38. Once a class has commenced no exhibitor / rider may purposely leave the ring without permission or instruction from the ring official.
39. There is to be no change of handler once a class has commenced without the permission of the judge.
40. The judge's decision is final and any protests must be lodged officially according to the Show Regulations.

PLAITING OF EXHIBITS

41. At all WPCSA run shows and events and events run under WPCSA rules, Welsh Led, Ridden or Driven Section A,B,C,D and E exhibits must be exhibited unplaited **and the judge should not judge a Section A, B, C, D & E exhibit which is presented plaited in these classes.**

- **** Open Leading Rein, Open First Ridden and Children's Open Ridden Exhibits must be exhibited plaited.**
- ****Open Show and Show Hunter type exhibits are eligible to compete in these events. Welsh and Part Welsh exhibits are eligible to compete in these events.**
- Welsh Leading Rein, Welsh First Ridden, Welsh Hunter, Ridden Welsh, Children's Welsh Ridden and Welsh Harness are to be exhibited with manes and tails unplaited. (Part Welsh are ineligible.)

WELFARE OF EXHIBITS

The welfare of exhibits is paramount

42. No lame or sick animal should be brought into a class.
43. All exhibits must compete drug free. Random swabbing may take place in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the WPCSA.
44. Random DNA testing may take place at all WPCSA run shows, as a condition of entry selected exhibits must be DNA tested.
45. Exhibits must not be subjected to unnecessary, unreasonable or unjustifiable pain, suffering or injury.
46. FOALS are to be haltered in the ring and must not be bitted.
 - All Welsh foals must be exhibited with manes and tails unplaited and must not be clipped (trimming is permissible). Part Welsh foals, clipping and plaiting is optional.
 - Foals under the age of three weeks and their dams cannot be shown.
 - **Foals under 5 months of age and unweaned foals of any age must be accompanied into the ring by their dam (see reg. 7, 9, 19 & 23 also)**

47. CLIPPING & TRIMMING

- Trimming is permissible only including the ears, throatlatch, lower jaw, jawline. Clipping of the eye area, muzzle & inside ears is discouraged.

BODY CLIPPING

- Welsh Exhibits 3 years old and under must not be body clipped for showing purposes.
 - Welsh Exhibits 4 years and over which have been clipped for performance activities can be shown. Exhibits MUST compete in performance classes at the show to be eligible for in hand classes.
 - Clipping of Part Welsh is optional.
48. SPURS: Only correctly fitted Dummy spurs are permitted in all saddle classes, excluding Lead-Rein, First Ridden or Children's Ridden classes (refer Reg 29, 30 & 31). In dressage - spurs are allowed as per EA regulations. Spurs must be correctly fitted and any misuse or abuse will result in disqualification.

AGE OF EXHIBITS

49. AGE OF EXHIBITS - Exhibits competing under saddle or in harness must be three years old or over. JUMPING - Exhibits must be four years or over. **ARC (Australian Ridden Welsh & Part Welsh Championship) - Exhibits may qualify at three years but must be four years or older to compete in the ARC Final.**
50. No diseased or sick animal may be brought on to event grounds. The event organiser reserves the right in its absolute discretion to take such action as a Veterinary Surgeon may advise in relation to any exhibit, without limitation. This may include removal of an exhibit to another location (in or out of the grounds). The exhibitor indemnifies the Society and / or its sub-committee in respect of all costs incurred in connection with any action taken pursuant to the above regulations. If an animal displays symptoms of disease after arrival at event grounds, the owner / exhibitor must notify the organisers immediately and follow the advice of a Veterinary Surgeon as above.

WELFARE OF EXHIBITORS

51. **AGE OF RIDERS & HANDLERS - Riders and handlers at Society conducted shows and events must be 3 years and over on the first day of the show. Riders must be 5 years and over on the first day of the show to compete independently. 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. Drivers must be 6 years and over. All drivers under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult who is in the vehicle.**

- a. Riders, drivers and handlers of stallions and colts are to be 16 years and over on the first day of the show.

52. **** Exhibitors and grooms must wear safe footwear and look neat and smartly dressed when entering the ring. Blue denim clothing is not appropriate.**

53. **HELMETS** - The wearing of Approved Helmets is compulsory for riders of all ages when riding at all times, whilst mounted; and all Junior drivers and Junior passengers under 18 years of age, at any WPCSA function. **Handlers 11 years and under** must wear Approved Helmets for all in-hand classes. Any exhibitor in a mobility vehicle must wear an Approved Helmet while in the ring. Approved Helmets are current Australian, New Zealand, European or American standards.

54. While in the marshalling area, and when entering and departing the ring, exhibits must be at no faster pace than the walk. Once exhibitors are in the ring they must remain at the walk unless instructed otherwise.

55. The maximum number of ridden exhibits on the circle at any one time in a class must not exceed 12*. Classes may be judged in divisions. (*Excludes lead-rein)

56. **WHIPS:** All whips, crops or hacking canes: length of the shaft must not exceed 75 centimetres excluding tails in all classes excluding dressage and harness.

57. In classes at shows run under WPCSA regulations where the pony is to be judged, ie lead rein, first ridden, children's pony, working hunter, show hunter, Section A, B, C, D, E or Part Welsh ridden classes, ridden exhibits must be presented and ridden in a saddle or paddle.

58. **FALLS AND INJURIES** - A fall of exhibit or rider/driver in any ridden or harness class will result in rider / driver disqualification from that class. The rider must not remount in the ring. (Refer to Harness guidelines in the event of a fall in harness classes) 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.

59. No assistance to an exhibit, exhibitor / rider / driver in the ring may be provided by any person. This includes the use of shakers or other items which may cause interference with other exhibits / exhibitors. *Does not apply to persons nominated by the show committee.

WORKING HUNTER

60. Novice Working Hunter - a novice working hunter has not won more than 3 first placings in any working hunter event at any show. Novice class winners are only eligible for specified novice awards.
61. No change of saddlery is allowed between phases or during phases. Boots, bandages and protective pads on exhibits' legs or feet are permissible in the jumping phase only. Open to all Welsh and Part Welsh exhibits. Open to stallions. Plaiting is not required. Both phases to be judged individually and consecutively by each judge. Any exhibit disqualified from Phase 1 does not proceed to Phase 2.

WORKING HUNTER CLASS HEIGHTS:

- Novice Maximum height (45cm)
 Novice Maximum height (55cm)
 Novice Maximum height (65cm)
 Working Hunter ne 12hh (50cm)
 Working Hunter over 12hh & ne 13hh (60cm)
 Working Hunter over 13hh & ne 14hh (70cm)
 Working Hunter over 14hh & ne 15hh (80cm)
 Working Hunter over 15hh (85cm)

MARKING

Phase 1

Jumping to be judged on jumping style and manners

Jumping	50 pts
Style and Manners	10 pts
<i>Penalties Phase 1</i>	
Knockdown1	10 pts
First Refusal	15 pts
Second Refusal	20 pts
Third Refusal	Disqualification
Fall of horse or rider either phase	Disqualification

Phase 2 Flat:

To be judged on conformation, manners and freedom of action

Conformation and freedom of action	30 pts
Manners	10 pts
Total	100 pts

In the event of a tie, the total from Phase 1 will take precedence, followed by the Style and Manners score, then conformation score. If there is still a tie, the Judge's decision is Final. No penalty is incurred if the lower pole on the same vertical plane is lowered. If an exhibit turns its quarters to a fence or has a complete turn around, both constitute a refusal. If an exhibit jumps the incorrect fence it will be eliminated. Exhibits displaying continued disobedience or exhibits leaving the ring whether the rider is mounted or dismounted will be eliminated. The Jumping phase will be completed first; any exhibit eliminated or disqualified will be eliminated from the competition.

PROTESTS

62. An exhibitor may lodge a protest against a competitor /judge. Protests must be lodged in writing with the Show Secretary within 3 hours of the disputed action, accompanied by a fee of \$100, which will be forfeited if not upheld. In the first instance protests must be dealt with by the Show Sub-committee which may refer the matter to the Committee of Management. Any person who has a protest lodged against him or her has the right of reply. Any expenses incurred by any party to the said protests shall be borne by that party.

DRESSAGE and HARNESS

63. All Dressage will be run under EA regulations.
 64. All Harness classes will be run under ACDS show regulations.

GUIDELINES TO JUDGES & EXHIBITORS

HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Society Risk Management Policy, when the temperature reaches 35 degrees, children 12 years and under must remove their jackets while competing. Judges, officials and other exhibitors are strongly encouraged to also do so.

HARNESS CLASS INCIDENT GUIDELINES

HARNESS - GEAR, VEHICLE FITNESS In line with the safety rules for riders, a driver who has fallen from a vehicle in a harness class is ineligible to continue in that class. As a guideline, if there is no damage to the animal, vehicle or harness, the unit should be driven from the ring by an experienced person. If there is a possibility that the animal is injured or the gear and/or vehicle have been damaged, then, in the interests of safety, a judge may request that the horse/pony be unharnessed from the vehicle and led from the arena.

MEASURING GUIDELINES: A horse shall only be measured twice and may spend up to a maximum of ten minutes in the measuring box/area on each occasion. Where a second measurement is required, the horse shall be returned to the Official Measuring Stewards no later than one (1) hour after the time of the first measurement and may be given priority over others waiting on first measurement.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In accordance with the WPCS of Aust. Inc 'Extreme Weather and Cancellation Policy' if cancellation is required due to existing or predicted severe and dangerous conditions such as Code Red Fire Warnings / Flood or travel warnings / disease outbreaks / Government or public health directives, a recorded message will be available as printed on the relevant show program.

REFUND POLICY

- **** There is no refund once entries have closed.**
- ****If an event has commenced there will be no refunds.**
- If an event is cancelled prior to commencement of the event - costs incurred by the show committee prior to the show will be paid and remaining funds will be reimbursed to the member if the amount per exhibitor is \$2 or more.
- If an event is postponed entry fees will not be refunded without a written request from the exhibitor within 7 days of the notification of postponement.
- If an event has to be moved to another venue due to extreme weather events, entry fees minus any administration fees and costs incurred by the show committee prior to the show, will only be refunded with a written request from the exhibit or within 7 days of notification of change of venue.
- There will be no refund based on elimination due to non-compliance with any WPCSA Show regulations or Government health orders current on the day & date of the event.

PLAITING NOTICE CLARIFICATION TO JUDGES & EXHIBITORS.

- At shows conducted by the WPCSA, all exhibits shown in led, ridden and driven Welsh classes must be shown unplaited. This does not include Part Welsh.
- At any show that states in the program they are being judged under the WPCSA Show regulations, exhibits in led, ridden and driven Welsh classes must be unplaited.
- At shows where the WPCSA has no jurisdiction, this rule cannot be enforced. At these shows plaited exhibits should not be penalised.



Do you want to become a Judge?

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc.

The WPCSA welcomes applications from members to begin the process towards becoming an accredited judge for the Society. The Society has a commitment to assisting applicants on their journey by encouraging and providing opportunities for education and experience. Reviews of the process towards judge accreditation are periodically made and amended as required.

Before commencing the journey to becoming a judge it is advised that you consider why you would like to undertake this task. Judges are often placed under considerable pressure by show societies and exhibitors and it is important that you are able to withstand these and continue to judge impartially and efficiently. The integrity of a judge must remain beyond reproach at all times.

In 2026 a major review was undertaken of the assessment process, to better cater for the needs of experienced as well as less experienced judges. The new system allows for greater flexibility but also may result in unprepared applicants having a higher rate of unsuccessful assessment.

The attached flowchart summarises the basic requirements but does not replace this more detailed explanation.

In summary, the criteria for application for Probationary Judge level is unchanged. Application for Tier 2 is basically unchanged except for the eligibility criteria based on breeding and producing experience. There are now two pathways towards attaining Tier 2 status and applicants are able to vary the pathway they have commenced at any time subject to COM approval should they wish to go straight to assessment. COM is hopeful that this may encourage more people to begin the judging journey but wishes to ensure that applicants are sufficiently prepared prior to undergoing the assessment process. Applicants are encouraged to gain judging, stewarding and probationary judging experience prior to undertaking an Assessment. Some Probationary Judges may feel that they are happy to stay at this level, there is no requirement to progress to Tier 2 unless desired.

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8	Summary Flowchart

Before beginning the process towards the Judging panel or applying for assessment, applicants must:

- Be a minimum of 21 years of age (for Tier 2 you must be a minimum of 25 years of age)
- Have attended a WPCSA Judge seminar within the previous 2 years
- Be a WPCSA (or approved overseas Society) current Full financial member (or Associate member linked to a full membership) and nominee of that membership and have been a member for at least 5 years (consecutive membership for Tier 2, not necessarily consecutive for Probationary level).
- Have no convictions relating to animal cruelty or child abuse
- Complete and submit an Application Form with Resume

Judges may be appointed to different Tier levels for different disciplines. Judges will be held accountable should they accept judging appointments as a WPCSA judge that they are not eligible to judge according to their judge status (Probationary, Tier 2):

- First breach – an explanation will be required and the judge will receive a letter of reprimand
- Second breach – the judge will be automatically demoted from Tier 2 to probationary or Probationary to non-panel for 12 months after which time the original judge level will be reinstated.
- Third breach – the judge will be removed from the judge panel for 12 months after which time the judge will be reinstated.

Appointment as a Probationary Judge

Learning focus

- Breed type and Standard of Excellence
- Conformation and its relationship to soundness
- Rules & Regulations
- Code of Conduct
- Ring management and troubleshooting
- Gain confidence in judging and improve efficiency in the ring.

The Assessment process involves

- Successful completion of an Open Book Test gaining a pass mark of at least 80%
- Interview with 2 Assessors, this is usually conducted in person but can be arranged to be via Zoom if required. You will be asked to explain why you wish to judge, assessed on your understanding of type, conformation, Rules & Regulations and your opinions on certain aspects of the breed and judging.
- Outcome of Assessment - be admitted to the Probationary Judge Tier or be advised to gain further experience and mentoring and re-apply.

Ongoing development

- Attend Judge seminars/workshops at least once every 3 years, the more the better.
- Complete Probationary Judging assignments and steward with Tier 1 judges
- Judge non-medal events at shows, even non-Welsh classes will gain you valuable ring management experience.
- Assist/co-judge Futurity events
- Gain confidence judging and managing the ring and utilise the experience of senior judges to gain further knowledge.
- Review the Society Rules & Regulations regularly and always prior to commencing a judging appointment.

Limitations

As a Probationary Judge you are not eligible to judge:

- Welsh & Part Welsh in-hand Medal classes or in-hand events at Royal or Overseas shows or major breed shows.
- Welsh & Part Welsh performance medals or performance events at Royal or Overseas shows or major breed shows. (If you are on a performance judge panel for another Society permission may be given by the Society to judge these events as a panel judge for another Society)
- Advanced roles such as ARC in-hand events, Young Judges, Inspections for change of section or foundation stock.

Requirements for retaining Probationary Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- You must attend a WPCSA judges seminar at least once every 3 years. It is strongly recommended that you attend as many as possible.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- Successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually.

Probationary Judging and Progression to Tier 2

- Prior to being eligible to apply for assessment as a Tier 2 judge the member must have judged at least 5 shows. It can be expected that reviews may be submitted by other judges and/or the show organiser and these can be utilised to further education.
- Probationary Judging
 - Probationary judges are encouraged to seek Probationary Judging appointments with Tier 1 judges, in states where there are very few Tier 1 judges then some reports submitted by Tier 2 judges or Welsh breeders who are Federal Panel APSB judges may be accepted with prior approval by COM.
 - It is expected that unless the Probationary judge is already an experienced judge that 4 successful probationary Judge appointments will need to be completed with at least 3 in each Section/discipline of the Judge Panel the judge wishes to be appointed to. At least 2 of the probationary judging appointments must be with Mentor or Overseas judges and the Probation Reports must be submitted to the Society by the assessing judge and not by the judge candidate and the assessing judge must not be an immediate family member or in a business relationship with the probationary judge as defined by the Society showing regulations. One of these appointments may be replaced with a ringside Mentor session, a probation judge report completed by the mentor judge must be submitted to COM.
 - Where a judge is already on a recognised judge panel at National level for the performance discipline being applied for then this requirement shall not apply ie a National Panel EA Show Horse judge would not be required to complete the three probationary ridden assessments. Such judges may be advanced to Tier 1 for the Performance section upon submission of a suitable resume following successful completion of the Tier 2 Judge assessment.
- Prior to COM approving the probationary judge for approval to be assessed for Tier 2 it is expected that sufficient experience will have been gained to give a reasonable expectation of success at the assessment. Should a member feel that they have sufficient experience to by-pass the Probationary level or reduce the amount of Probationary appointments recommended they may apply for permission to be assessed for Tier 2, this will be at the discretion of COM subject to details provided on the Application.

Appointment as a Tier 2 Judge

- There are two potential pathways towards being appointed as a Tier 2 judge but both require the member to successfully complete a Judge Assessment which will involve a written test, practical examination and extensive interview. As a breed Society, it is essential that the assessors are confident that the judge has a thorough understanding of breed type. As a representative of the Society, the assessors will also consider how you

would interact with show organisers and exhibitors as well as how you would manage a ring and conduct yourself in potentially difficult situations under pressure. Two assessors will adjudicate and their decision will be final. Candidates will be scored and depending on the result may be asked to undergo further training prior to appointment, may be approved for immediate inclusion on the Tier 2 judge panel or may be required to be assessed again at a future date.

- A bond of \$100 will be required to secure a position at the Assessment and this will be returned to the candidate following attendance and forfeited should the candidate not present.
- It is recommended that potential Tier 2 judges complete the requirements detailed above (Progression to Tier 2) to ensure that they have the necessary training and skills for them to be successful when assessed. Should an experienced judge wish to bypass these steps, the person may complete the Judge Application and request that COM approves he/she to be assessed without completing the steps detailed previously. COM will need to be confident that the candidate has a working knowledge of the Welsh in-hand ad ridden workouts and an expectation that there is sufficient experience and knowledge to enable a successful result.

Eligibility for Assessment

- The judge candidate must complete and submit an Application for Assessment, noting which disciplines are to be assessed. COM will review the application and determine whether the candidate is approved to attend an Assessment Day. It is recommended that the candidate have sufficient experience and knowledge to expect to be successful when assessed prior to applying. Candidates may apply to be assessed for one or multiple disciplines and sections and following the assessment may be appointed as Tier 2 judges for one or all sections/disciplines.
- In order to be eligible for appointment as a Tier 2 Welsh In-Hand judge, the candidate or his/her immediate family must have bred at least 5 Pure Welsh animals or bred &/or owned &/or produced and exhibited a minimum of 10 Pure Welsh animals over a minimum 5 year period where it can be determined by COM that the candidate has been directly involved in the breeding and/or production decisions made. Production is defined as "A person involved in the training, conditioning and/or exhibition of show or competition horses". This criteria does not apply for appointment to the Part Welsh In-Hand, Ridden or Harness panels. It must be remembered that as a Studbook Society it is paramount that judges are able to assess breeding stock.

The Assessment involves

- Successful completion of a closed book written test for each section applied for, gaining a pass mark of at least 80%
- Examination in a mock judging situation of two classes of ponies. You will be expected to be able to discuss your placings and reasoning for those decisions to the Assessor.
- An interview with 2 Assessors who will ensure that there is a detailed knowledge of the Standard of Excellence. You will be asked to explain why you wish to judge, assessed on your understanding of type, conformation, Rules & Regulations and your opinions on certain aspects of the breed and judging. You will need to explain your placings of the two classes judged as part of the assessment. A discussion pertaining to Part Welsh as well as any other Sections applied for can be expected to be extensive.
- Assessors will score the candidate as per the attached score sheet and depending on the results will either recommend that the candidate be appointed to Tier 2 for specific

disciplines, require further training and re-assessment at a future date or be appointed subject to completion of some probationary judging appointments.

- Where a candidate is already on a National judge panel for ridden or harness, he/she will be appointed to Tier 1 for that discipline upon successful assessment onto the Tier 2 Welsh In-Hand panel, completion of the relevant written test gaining a 80% pass mark and interview.

Ongoing development

- Attend Judge seminars/workshops at least once every 3 years, the more the better.
- Gain confidence judging and managing the ring and utilise the experience of senior judges to gain further knowledge.
- Review the Society Rules & Regulations regularly and always prior to commencing a judging appointment.

Limitations

- As a Tier 2 Judge you are eligible to judge Bronze medal and Futurity events.
- As a Tier 2 Judge you are **not eligible** to judge
 - Welsh & Part Welsh in-hand Gold or Silver Medal classes
 - Welsh & Part Welsh performance Gold or Silver Medal classes If you are on a National performance judge panel for another Society permission may be given by the Society to judge these events as a panel judge for another Society

Requirements for retaining Tier 2 Judge status

- You must remain a full member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- You must attend a WPCSA judges seminar at least once every 3 years. It is strongly recommended that you attend as many as possible.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- Successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign and return Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually.

Appointment as a Tier 1 Judge

Eligibility to apply:

- Prior to 1st August each year, eligible Tier 2 judges wishing to be considered for inclusion as Tier 1 judges must submit the relevant Tier 1 application form to the Society for consideration.
- You must have been a Tier 2 judge of the WPCSA for a minimum of 5 years or be a Silver/Gold medal approved judge with the WPCS (UK) in order to be appointed to the Tier 1 Welsh In-Hand panel.
- You must have been a member of the WPCSA or an approved overseas Welsh Society for a minimum of 5 consecutive years and be the nominee of that membership. Membership must be a Full Membership unless the applicant is associated with a Full membership in which case being the nominee of a separate Associate membership is accepted.
- You must have bred at least 5 Pure Welsh animals to be appointed to the Welsh In-Hand panel. This does not apply for appointment to the Part Welsh In-Hand, Ridden or Harness panels. It must be remembered that as a Studbook Society it is paramount that judges are able to assess breeding stock.

- You must be able to declare that you have never had any conviction relating to animal cruelty or child abuse.
- You must have attended a WPCSA judges' seminar within the previous 2 years.
- You must have judged a minimum of 5 WPCS shows which should include 3 medal shows in the discipline to be applied for with details of the events and show organiser contact details supplied on the application form.
- Tier 2 judges who are on a National Judge Panel for performance (ridden and/or harness) with an approved Society will be eligible for inclusion as a Tier 1 judge for that discipline.

Requirements for retaining Tier 1 Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership. (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- You must attend a WPCSA judges seminar at least once every 3 years. It is strongly recommended that you attend as many as possible. Speciality performance judges who are only on the panel for a performance discipline must attend a seminar relevant to the section they are appointed to judge at least once every 3 years and confirm attendance with COM. Tier 1 judges who have been on the Society judge panel for a minimum of 10 years and who have judged at least 10 Welsh shows since their appointment will only be required to attend a WPCSA seminar at least once every 5 years upon submission of documentation confirming such eligibility.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- You must successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign and return Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually.

Appointment as a Guest Judge

Tier 1 judges who due to age, illness or infirmity or personal reasons, no longer wish to judge for long periods of time but are prepared to judge in a reduced capacity and/or assist with judge training may apply to be transferred to the Guest Judge category.

Eligibility:

- You must have been a Tier 1 judge of the WPCSA Inc.
- You must have been a member of the WPCSA or an approved overseas Welsh Society for a minimum of 5 consecutive years and be the nominee of that membership. Membership must be a Full Membership unless the applicant is associated with a Full membership in which case being the nominee of a separate Associate membership is accepted. If the judge is no longer breeding, then Associate membership will suffice.

In order to maintain the Guest Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership as per eligibility criteria.
- It is recommended that Guest judges attend a WPCSA judges' seminar at least once every three years.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations and complete an Open Book Test and sign and return the Code Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually.

SUMMARY FLOWCHART OF THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A WPCSA PANEL JUDGE
 refer to the "Do You Want to Become a Judge" document for more detail

