

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 grooms. • 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 microchipped 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 unregistered 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

Penalties Phase 1

Knockdown 1 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.