

1. All Judges that are on the current SPSBS Panel must be fully paid up Members of the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society. This applies equally to Trainee Judges, Intermediate and Senior Judges. Membership may be Annual, Life, Honorary or Associate.
2. A judge should remember that it is a great honour to be invited to judge at a show. He/she should reply promptly to the invitation and, having made the commitment, **should honour it.**
3. A judge who feels unable to judge any class in the schedule should inform the show secretary well in advance of the show.
4. A judge should report to the secretary of the show at least half an hour before judging is due to begin.
5. A judge should be neatly and appropriately dressed.
6. A judge should avoid meeting exhibitors, their helpers and ponies on the day of the show prior to entering the show ring in which he/she is to judge.
7. It should be remembered that each competitor pays the same entry fee and therefore merits the courtesy of having his/her pony inspected and placed.
8. No contact should be made between the judge and the spectators during the period when judging begins and ends.
9. A judge must not call any exhibitor by his/her name in the ring and must always remain completely detached. No social conversation should take place.
10. Instructions to exhibitors generally should be relayed through the steward of the ring.
11. A judge may not place in a class a pony, which to his/her knowledge has been bred, sold, leased or produced by the judge or his/her immediate family or employer; nor may he/she place a pony in which he/she has a financial interest; nor may he/she place a stallion by whom he/she has had a mare stunted in that season. Should a situation arise when such a pony appears, a referee, preferably on the appropriate panel of judges, should be appointed by the show secretary to place the pony in question in its position in the class.
12. If a pony entered in a class is, in the opinion of the judge, unsound, the judge may, at his/her discretion, require the exhibitor to withdraw the pony from that class, subject to the right of the exhibitor to refer the matter to a veterinary surgeon, should one be in attendance. If no vet is available, then the judge's decision on the matter is final.
13. A judge may be accompanied in the ring only by one of the Society's trainee judges or by a person or persons appointed by the show. A judge should not permit a trainee judge for whom he/she has acted as sponsor to officiate alongside him/her.
14. Judges are forbidden to refer to the show catalogue either before or during judging. They are, however, encouraged to carry a schedule, which should be carefully studied, noting the number of rosettes available and any special awards. Also special attention should be given to the correct procedure for judging the Championships.
15. Before judging commences, discussion with the steward should take place regarding the procedure to be adopted in the ring; where to line up the ponies, where to run them out, presenting of rosettes etc.
16. It should be noted that ponies may be shod or unshod.
17. Judges who have been invited to officiate at the Society's Annual Breed Show must not accept invitations to judge similar classes at other shows prior to the Breed Show in the same year e.g. if a Judge is invited to judge a section of In-hand classes at the Breed Show, they may judge ridden classes, if they are qualified to do so, at other shows but not In-hand classes.
18. Judges without an "R" may not judge ridden classes where there are more than two Ridden classes or the best ridden pony is to go forward to an overall Mountain and Moorland

Championship, or where the class is a qualifier for Area or National Mountain and Moorland Championships.

19. Be cautious and discreet in any remarks made after the judging is over. Never get involved in a discussion as to why a particular pony may have been placed down the line.

20. **You** know that **your** integrity is beyond question - make sure that it is **seen** to be so!
A judge must be totally unbiased and fair. It must also be remembered that it is the **ponies** only that are being judged.
21. Judges should go to the secretary's office before leaving the showground to check on any queries and thank the show committee for its hospitality.
22. All judges must get permission from the SPSBS Council prior to accepting any engagements to judge abroad, if asked to judge in the capacity of a SPSBS panel judge. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action.

GENERAL

23. Judges should exercise discretion in accepting invitations to judge the same type of show in the same area in any one year. Judges must not, under normal circumstances, undertake more than six affiliated shows in any calendar year and the shows must be well spaced apart geographically. Having judged at any particular show in the UK, a Judge must not return to that show to judge the same section within a three year period other than in exceptional circumstances, in which case the office must be informed as soon as possible.
24. Judges must not canvass for judging appointments.
25. A judge who judges at a show at which a trainee judge has been accepted should fill in his/her report promptly, providing as much information as possible. Failure to do this may delay a trainee's progress. Reports should be discussed with the trainee judge and should give an honest and accurate account of the Senior judge's opinion of the trainee judge as a future panel judge and ambassador of the Society. Reports should be submitted directly to the Society Office. Under no circumstances should they be handed to the trainee to return to the Office. For a report to count towards the total number required by trainees, there must be a minimum of three Shetland classes and fifteen ponies forward on the day (not catalogued entries). All reports, however, whether qualifying or not, must be returned to Shetland House by the Senior Judge.
26. Judges should ensure they are familiar with the Guidelines for Showing Shetland Ponies printed at the end of these Rules, and be aware that they have the authority to request the removal of any owner/pony who they feel has not complied with the aforementioned Rules.
27. Judges Seminars may be arranged by the Society from time to time – there is no requirement for Senior, Intermediate or Trainee Judges to attend. However, current topical issues will be discussed and it is hoped that as many Judges as possible will make use of this facility.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR INTERMEDIATE JUDGES

28. Judges on the Intermediate Panel should study the foregoing Rules for Senior Panel Judges as many of these will apply.
29. Judges on the Intermediate Panel will automatically, on the 1st of January after completing three years on the Intermediate Judges Panel, move up to the Senior Judges Panel as long as no written substantiated complaints have been received in the SPSBS office.

30. A judge on the Intermediate Panel may not accept an invitation to judge classes on the Society's behalf at the Society Breed Show, the Royal Highland Show, the Royal Show or the Royal Welsh Show.
31. Intermediate Judges may not judge at shows linked to Society Sales
32. A judge on the Intermediate Panel is not permitted to act as an assessor of a trainee judge.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR TRAINEE JUDGES

33. Trainee judges are requested to study the foregoing Judges' Rules as many points apply (even at this early stage in their judging career).
34. Trainee judges are reminded that they are being assessed not only on their knowledge of ponies, but also their suitability as ambassadors of the Society and should act in a courteous and considerate manner both inside and outside the ring.
35. When arranging an appointment to attend a show as a trainee judge, the trainee should first request permission to do so, not only with the officiating senior judge but also with the show secretary. It must be understood that some shows do not permit trainee judges. The Society Secretary must be notified of shows to be attended once permission has been granted.
36. A trainee should ensure that the Senior judge, with whom he/she has judged a particular show, is given a Trainee Judges Report form and a stamped envelope addressed to the Society Secretary. This may speed up the return of the form. If an SAE is not provided for the Senior Judge, the report may not count towards the total required. For a report to count towards the total number required, there must be a minimum of three Shetland classes and fifteen ponies forward on the day (not catalogued entries). All reports, however, whether qualifying or not, must be returned to Shetland House by the Senior Judge. **The Show attended must be affiliated to the Society and the Judge on the SPSBS Senior Panel.**
37. A trainee judge must wear a distinguishing red armband, as supplied by the Society, when accompanying a Senior judge in the ring.
38. Trainee judges **must not** attend shows in this capacity alongside a judge who has acted as one of their sponsors.
39. Trainee judges are not permitted to officiate at shows linked to Society sales.
40. Trainee judges should attempt, wherever possible, to attend shows outwith their local area and not with local judges. A maximum of four shows may be undertaken in any one calendar year.
41. Trainee judges should ensure they undertake Shows with as wide a range of classes as possible, covering all heights of ponies up to 42" and all colours.
42. Trainee judges should remember that the senior judge is the official judge, and only the senior judge should direct the steward and exhibitors.
43. Trainee judges should offer their opinions on the ponies only when asked by the senior judge, and not discuss the pony with exhibitors, nor handle the ponies unless instructed to do so by the senior judge.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR RIDDEN/DRIVEN JUDGES

44. Trainee, Intermediate or Senior Judges may apply to join the Ridden panel by requesting the necessary form from the Office. Prior to applying to join the Driven panel, Judges must first have successfully completed the BDS trainee scheme.
45. The Senior Judge under whom the Trainee Ridden or Driven Judge wishes to probation must either have a relevant "R" or "D" against his/her name on the Society's Senior Panel list or is a BDS Judge.
46. A minimum of four Shows must be undertaken, with reports submitted by the Senior Judge as detailed in Rule 23. In order that ridden reports qualify, each Show must have a minimum

of two flat ridden classes with a minimum of eight ponies forward in total (not catalogued entries).

47. In Ridden classes, Judges should note that ponies must be shown in a suitable bridle.
48. In lead rein classes, ponies must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle with the reins going directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The lead rein must be attached to the nose band only.
49. In first ridden classes, ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show.
50. In Ridden classes, Judges should note that 50% of the marks available should be awarded for ride and manners and 50% for conformation and breed type.
51. In the event of a rider falling off, at any time whilst in the ring, the judge must ask the rider to leave the ring immediately, dismounted, and take no further part in that class on the grounds of Health & Safety.
52. Whips or show canes carried must not exceed 30" in length. Spurs may not be worn.
53. Please also refer to the separate additional rules for ridden and driven classes.

Guidelines for Showing Shetland Ponies

1. **Dress** : must be neat, no training shoes or jeans. Where possible, ladies should wear a collar and tie or blouse with jacket and neat trousers or skirt. Tartan skirts/kilts or trousers look very smart and enhance the image of the pony. Sensible footwear is essential to allow a pony to be shown effectively. Gentlemen should wear a collar and tie and tweed jacket with neat trousers or a suit or kilt. Hats are not compulsory for either sex but, without doubt, improve the overall picture of pony and handler (and may be compulsory at some Shows). There must be no individual stud, person or pony names displayed **in any way** in the ring e.g. on clothing, rugs, saddle cloths. Whips or show canes carried must not exceed 30" in length. Spurs may not be worn in ridden classes
2. **Ring Etiquette** : the Judge must never be spoken to using his/her name. Listen to instructions provided by the Steward or Judge and watch exhibitors in front of you. When asked to walk/trot a pony out, ensure the pony travels with you - do not drag it along. When turning the pony, push it away from you - do not pull it towards you. Do not ever leave the ring before the end of the class without first gaining the permission of the Judge, through the Steward.
3. **Trimming/Clipping** : the pony's ears may be trimmed flat but there must be no trimming inside the ear. Trimming of whiskers on the jaw line is acceptable. Manes and tails must not be pulled but tails may be rough trimmed to clear the ground if dragging. Leg feathers must not be trimmed. No false hair, artificial colouring or make-up should be used. Working ponies of four years old or over **only** may be clipped in the interest of welfare. Under **no** circumstances should foals be clipped. Ponies should always be shown in a clean condition.
4. **Tack/Equipment** : colts/stallions of two years old or over must be shown bitted. Younger animals and older females may be shown in a suitable headcollar. For In-Hand showing, only plain, English-style jointed or straight bar snaffles are permitted. Chifneys or other similar bits are not acceptable. For ridden classes, suitable bridles must be used. In the interests of safety, handlers aged 14 yrs. or under must wear a hard hat when exhibiting in In-hand classes. Hard hats must be worn by all ages of exhibitors in ridden classes. In lead rein classes, ponies must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle with the reins going directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The lead rein must be attached to the nose band only.

5. **Registration/Eligibility** : in Affiliated Shows – “stallion” classes aged four years or over are open to all entire males. There is **NO** requirement to hold a Licence of any sort.. Three year old fillies with foals at foot may not be shown. Foals must be a minimum of three weeks old on the day of the Show. Colts and stallions are not permitted in Young Handlers classes. Children aged under 14 yrs. may not show colts (excluding foals) or entire males in In-hand classes. Children aged under 11 yrs. may not show entire males in ridden classes. Please ensure your pony is correctly registered in your name.
6. **Championships** : where a Shetland is eligible to go forward to a Supreme Championship involving other breeds, every effort should be made to attend. This should be considered an honour and a chance to promote and bring the Shetland breed to the attention of others. If you cannot attend a Championship for which you are eligible, please ensure you advise the Show Secretary and/or Steward as soon as possible.
7. **General** : exhibitors should be aware that a Judge may not place in a class a pony, which to his/her knowledge has been bred, sold, leased or produced by the Judge or his/her immediate family or employer; nor may he/she place a pony in which he/she has a financial interest; nor may he/she place a stallion by whom he/she has had a mare stunted in that season. Should a situation arise when such a pony appears, a referee, preferably on the appropriate panel of Judges, should be appointed by the Show Secretary to place the pony in question in its position in the class. If you intend to show a pony under a Judge falling into any of the above categories, therefore, please ensure you advise the Show Secretary well in advance of the Show. Always check show schedules to see if a current flu vaccination certificate is required.

Failure to comply with the above Rules may result in disciplinary action being taken. Council reserves the right, at its discretion, to remove a judge from its Judges Panel.

THE ABOVE JUDGES' RULES SUPERSEDE PREVIOUS JUDGES GUIDELINES, RENDERING THEM NULL AND VOID FROM THE DATE GIVEN.