



# **RULEBOOK**

# **2026**

**Registered in Scotland No. SC135563 Registered as a charity in Scotland No. SCO14784**

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**This is the rule book of the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society (SPS-BS).  
The Society expects all members, judges, exhibitors and owners to adhere to be  
familiar with the following rules and, in the case of Judges, to enforce these rules.  
Rule amendments for 2026 are in bold font.**

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## 1. RULES RELATING TO EXHIBITORS

- 1.1 **Dress Code:** Dress must be neat and smart. Footwear should be appropriate, sturdy and dark in colour. Sensible footwear is essential to allow a pony to be shown effectively. White or brightly coloured footwear is not permitted. Trousers should be smart, blue denim jeans are not permitted. Where possible, exhibitors should wear a collar and tie or blouse/shirt with jacket and neat trousers or skirt/kilt. Hats are not compulsory for handlers over the age 14, but are recommended as, without doubt, they improve the overall picture of pony and handler (and may be compulsory at some Shows). Baseball caps are not permitted. In the interests of safety, handlers aged 14 yrs. or under must wear a hard hat when exhibiting in In-hand classes. Hard hats, conforming to current British Safety standards must be worn, and be correctly secured, by all ages of exhibitors in ridden classes. There must be no individual stud, business, 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.
- 1.2 **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. For Health & Safety purposes judges and exhibitors must remain standing whilst in the ring when showing ponies. KNEELING IS NOT PERMITTED. Do not ever leave the ring before the end of the class without first gaining the permission of the Judge, through the Steward. Mobile phones are not permitted to be seen or used in the ring under any circumstance either by judge or exhibitor.
- 1.3 **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. Sensory whiskers MUST NOT be trimmed. Manes and tails must not be pulled but tails should be rough trimmed so that they are just at ground level. 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 may be clipped on their bodies only in the interest of welfare. Under no circumstances should foals be clipped. Ponies should always be shown in a clean condition.
- 1.4 **Tack/Equipment:** In hand colts/stallions of two years old or over must be shown bitted and are advised to display a stallion bridle badge, which are available to purchase from the SPSBS. Younger animals and older females may be shown in a suitable smart head collar, filly slip or bridle. For In-Hand showing, only plain, English-style jointed or straight bar snaffles are permitted. Chifney or other similar bits are not acceptable. The use of solid metal curb chains is prohibited. For ridden classes, suitable bridles must be used. 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.

1.5 Registration/Eligibility: at Affiliated Shows –To enter a stallion in ANY class (in-hand or performance) at an affiliated show, entire males aged 4 years old and over must have an “S” number and have been successfully through either the SPS-BS Stallion assessment prior to 2006 or the current SPS-BS Voluntary Veterinary Examination.

Ridden stallions MUST display a stallion bridle badge. In hand colts/stallions of two years old or over must be shown bitted and are advised to display a colt or stallion bridle badge, these are available to purchase from the SPS-BS. 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 Stallions in In-hand classes. Children aged under 12 years old on the day of their class may not show a stallion in ridden classes.

Please ensure that your pony is correctly registered in your name as required by law. If the pony is on loan/lease, then that should be lodged in writing with the SPS-BS office.

1.6 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 an opportunity 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. At a show where there is a parade of ponies, in order to promote the breed, exhibitors should make every effort to take part and should be smartly dressed as for showing.

1.7 General Information:

Ponies must be the bona fide property of exhibitors or have a lease agreement lodged with the SPS-BS at the time of entry to any affiliated show.

It is recommended that exhibitors of Shetland Ponies have their own Third Party/Public Liability insurance.

Exhibitors should be aware that a judge may not:

- place in a class a pony which to their knowledge has been bred, sold, leased or produced by the judge or their immediate family, partner, business partner or employer;
- place in a class a pony in which they have had a financial interest since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year;
- place in a class a stallion by whom they have had a mare stunted in that season;
- judge any rider/handler who has shown in a class a horse/pony owned, produced or trained by them since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the preceding year;
- 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;
- have as their Steward any person who owns a pony, has bred a pony or has any other interest, financial or otherwise, in a pony in the class being judged.

## 2. SOCIETY MEDALS

2.1 The society now awards both the original silver medals and the new bronze medals. Exhibitors must be current members of the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society to receive both types of medals.

2.2 Silver Medal Shows

- Breed show – all ring champions
- Performance show – one medal
- Viking Shetland Pony Show – one medal
- Royal Highland – Medals awarded to both the standard and miniature champions
- Royal Welsh - Medals awarded to both the standard and miniature champions
- Great Yorkshire - Medal awarded to both the standard and miniature champions
- Royal Bath & West Show – One medal awarded to the overall supreme champion Shetland

2.2.1 With the exception of the breed show, Silver Medals will be posted out from Society Office once results are received and verified.

2.3 Bronze Medal Shows. Any recognised group can apply to hold a Bronze Medal Show.

2.3.1 Each group can hold a maximum of two Bronze Medal shows per calendar year and the shows offering Bronze Medals must be affiliated to the society.

2.3.2 Bronze Medals may be awarded to the champion of each of the miniature, standard, ridden and driven Championship.

2.3.4 Medals will be awarded by the show secretary, upon production of a current SPS-BS membership card.

2.3.5 Bronze Medals will be issued free of charge to groups wishing to hold Bronze Medal status shows in 2025

*Wording that must be used in Show Schedules:*

### SPS-BS BRONZE MEDAL SHOW

*Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society Bronze Medals will be awarded to the champion miniature, standard, ridden & driven (delete as applicable) pony, subject to the pony being registered with SPS-BS and the owner/exhibitor is a fully paid up member of the SPS-BS. In the event of the champion pony or owner/exhibitor not being eligible, the Bronze Medal can be awarded to the reserve champion, should they meet the registration and membership requirements. Medals will be awarded by the show secretary, upon production of a current SPS-BS membership card.*

### **3. RULES RELATING TO SHOW AFFILIATION**

- 3.1 Rules numbered 3.3 – 3.6 MUST be printed in your show schedule and catalogue (if one is produced).
- 3.2 If the SPS-BS panel judge has a stud name included on our judges list, then this MUST be printed beside their name in the schedule.
- 3.3 Classes must be confined to SPS-BS registered ponies. Ponies must be named on the entry form and in the catalogue if one is produced. Society rosettes must only be given to ponies registered with the Society or to foals eligible for registration.
- 3.4 Three-year-old fillies with foals at foot may not be shown. All foals must be a minimum of three weeks old on the day of the Show.
- 3.5 To enter a stallion in ANY class (in-hand or performance) at an affiliated show, entire males aged 4 years old and over must have an “S” number and have been successfully through either the SPS-BS Stallion assessment prior to 2006 or the current SPS-BS Voluntary Veterinary Examination. Ridden stallions MUST display a stallion bridle badge. In hand colts/stallions of two years old or over must be shown bitted and are advised to display a colt or stallion bridle badge, these are available to purchase from the SPS-BS.
- 3.6 There must be no colts or stallions in Young Handlers classes. Young Handlers must be a minimum of 3 years of age on the day of the show. Children under 14 years old may not show colts (excluding foals) or Stallions in In-hand classes. Children aged under 12 years old on the day of their class may not show a stallion in ridden classes. In the interests of safety, hard hats conforming to current British Safety standards must be worn, correctly secured, by all handlers aged 14 years or under in In-hand classes. For Health & Safety purposes judges and exhibitors must remain standing whilst in the ring when showing ponies. KNEELING IS NOT PERMITTED. Hard hats conforming to current British Safety standards must be worn, correctly secured, by all exhibitors, irrespective of age, in ridden classes. Ridden and driven ponies must be 4 years old or over. In ridden Classes, if a rider falls off at any time whilst in the ring, both pony and rider must leave the ring, rider dismounted, and take no further part.
- 3.7 A SCHEDULE, OR DRAFT OF SCHEDULE, MUST ACCOMPANY ALL APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION. Society rosettes may only be awarded by SPS-BS Panel Judges who must be members of the SPS-BS, except for NPS M&M Panel Judges who may judge only mixed breed classes and can award “Best Shetland” rosettes.
- 3.8 If you intend to invite an overseas judge please ensure they are on the SPS-BS International Judges Panel.
- 3.9 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 M & M Championships, the Judge invited must have an “R” beside their name on the Society Judges List.

3.10 Judges, Exhibitors and Show Secretaries must be aware that a judge may not:

- Place in a class a pony which to their knowledge has been bred, sold, leased produced by the judge or their immediate family, partner, business partner or employer.
- Place in a class a pony in which they have had a financial interest since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year.
- Place in a class a stallion by whom they have had a mare stinted in that season.
- Judge any rider/handler who has shown in a class a horse/pony owned, produced or trained by them since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the preceding year.
- 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;
- have as their Steward any person who owns a pony, has bred a pony or has any other interest, financial or otherwise, in a pony in the class being judged.

3.11 A typewritten list of results should be sent to the SPS-BS office via email or post within 1 month of the show date to ensure that they are included in the Society's annual results. The results must include the ponies' name, or they will not be printed. This is especially important as the society is operating a showing scheme based on affiliated show results.

3.12 Applications received without the correct fee cannot be considered.

- a) Fee - £30 for full affiliation, providing up to a maximum of ten rosettes. Additional rosettes can be purchased for £3 each.
- b) £10.00 for a "Best Shetland" rosette only for mixed M&M class.

3.13 Payment of affiliation fee is deemed to be confirmation that these rules have been read, understood and accepted.

#### 4. RULES RELATING TO SPS-BS PANEL JUDGES

- 4.1 The SPS-BS view their judges as ambassadors for the Society and they should conduct themselves accordingly at all times. The Society expects its Judges to uphold and enforce the rules of the Society.
- 4.2 Judges Seminars are arranged by the SPS-BS. It is compulsory for SPS-BS panel & trainee Judges to attend one of these seminars every 3 years within a 3 year rolling period. Current topical issues will be discussed. Failure to attend will result in removal from the judging panel until such time as a Seminar has been attended.
- 4.3 All Judges that are on the current SPS-BS Panel must be fully paid-up Members of the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society. Subscriptions must be paid in advance by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December each year. The Annual Return Form, as provided by the SPS-BS, must be returned within the advised timescale. This applies equally to Trainee Judges, Intermediate and Senior Judges. Membership may be Annual, Life, Honorary or Associate, Joint or Family.
- 4.4 A judge should remember that it is a great honour to be invited to judge at a show. They should reply promptly to any invitation and, having made any commitment, should honour it.
- 4.5 A judge who feels unable to judge any class in the schedule must inform the show secretary well in advance of the show.
- 4.6 A judge should report to the secretary of the show at least half an hour before judging is due to begin.
- 4.7 A judge should be neatly and appropriately dressed. A suitable hat must be worn at all affiliated shows.
- 4.8 **Mobile phones are not permitted in the ring under any circumstance either by judge or exhibitor.**
- 4.9 A judge should avoid meeting exhibitors, their helpers and ponies on the day of the show prior to entering the show ring in which they are to judge.
- 4.10 The Society discourages the touching of ponies on health and safety grounds. Should you choose to touch ponies when judging them it is on the understanding that you do so at your own risk and the Society accepts no responsibility for anything that may result from your actions. **Judges should exercise caution when using any form of walking aid in the ring, ensuring it does not compromise their safety or that of the ponies.** Absolutely no touching of ponies' mouths is permitted.
- 4.11 It should be remembered that each competitor pays the same entry fee and therefore merits the courtesy of having their pony inspected and placed.
- 4.12 No contact should be made between the judge and the spectators during the period when judging begins and ends.
- 4.13 A judge must not call any exhibitor by their name in the ring and must always remain completely impartial. No social conversation should take place prior to showing or in the

ring. Judges must not accept any hospitality from an exhibitor and should avoid staying with any potential exhibitor at shows where they will be judging.

- 4.14 Instructions to exhibitors should be relayed through the steward of the ring.
- 4.15 The SPS-BS seeks to ensure that all its competitions are judged fairly and that there is no bias or favouritism. This is only achievable if owners, exhibitors, riders, handlers and judges observe the following rules, in the spirit in which they are intended.

A judge may not:

- place in a class a pony which to their knowledge has been bred, sold, leased or produced by the judge or their immediate family, partner, business partner or employer.
- place in a class a pony in which they have had a financial interest since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year.
- place in a class a stallion by whom they have had a mare stunted in that season.
- judge any rider/handler who has shown in a class a horse/pony owned, produced or trained by them since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the preceding year.
- 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;
- have as their Steward any person who owns a pony, has bred a pony or has any other interest, financial or otherwise, in a pony in the class being judged.

- 4.16 If any pony entered in a class is, in the opinion of the judge, unsound, the judge may, at their 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.
- 4.17 For Health & Safety purposes a judge must remain standing and should ensure that all exhibitors remain standing whilst in the ring when showing ponies. KNEELING IS NOT PERMITTED.
- 4.18 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 they have acted as a nominator to officiate alongside them
- 4.19 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, using the schedule.
- 4.20 Judges should acquaint themselves with the ring they will be judging in and arrange to meet their stewards at an appointed time. Before judging commences discuss with your steward the procedure you would like to use while judging, such as where to line up, which corner to use for change of rein etc. Also, make sure the rosettes, qualifying cards etc are all accessible for awarding at the end of the class. Whenever possible issue instructions regarding the conduct of the class through your steward. Always thank your steward at the end of the classes.

- 4.21 It should be noted that ponies over 4 years old are permitted to be shod or unshod.
- 4.22 Judges invited to officiate at the Breed Show must not undertake any judging appointments for affiliated Shetland pony classes in the year of the Breed Show prior to the Show taking place. Breed Show Secretaries must inform Judges of the above at the time of invitation. Judges must not have ponies of their own entered in the Show.
- 4.23 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.
- 4.24 Be cautious and sensitive in any remarks made after the judging is complete. However, Judges should be open to questions from exhibitors regarding reasons for the placings of their animals but keep your reasons brief, polite and discreet.
- 4.25 You know that your integrity as a Judge 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.
- 4.26 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.
- 4.27 All judges must inform the SPS-BS Council prior to accepting any engagements to judge abroad, if asked to judge in the capacity of a SPS-BS panel judge. Judges are encouraged to take Society rosettes if they are judging for Daughter Stud-Book Societies.
- 4.28 Ridden stallions MUST display a stallion bridle badge. In hand colts/stallions of two years old or over must be shown bitted and are advised to display a colt or stallion bridle badge, these are available to purchase from the SPS-BS.
- 4.29 Judges should exercise discretion in accepting invitations to judge the same section at a 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 show in the UK, a Judge must not return to that show to judge within a three-year period other than in exceptional circumstances, in which case the SPS-BS office must be informed as soon as possible.
- 4.30 Judges must not canvass for judging appointments.
- 4.31 A judge who judges at a show at which a trainee judge has been accepted should fill in their report promptly, providing as much information as possible. Failure to do this may delay a trainee's progress. Reports should not 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 for the Society. Reports should be completed thoroughly and submitted directly to the SPS-BS Office. All reports, whether qualifying or not, must be returned to Shetland House by the Senior Judge.
- 4.32 Judges should ensure they are familiar with the entirety of the SPS-BS Rule Book and be

aware that they have the authority to request the removal from the ring of any owner/pony who they feel has not complied with the Society Rules.

#### **4.33 ADDITIONAL RULES FOR INTERMEDIATE JUDGES**

4.33.1 Judges on the Intermediate Panel are required to study the entirety of the SPS-BS rule book in particular the foregoing Rules for Senior Panel Judges as many of these will apply.

4.33.2 Judges on the Intermediate Panel will be reviewed by council after a 3 year period and may proceed on to the Senior Panel. This is not an automatic entitlement.

4.33.3 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 Welsh Show, International Shows or shows out with the UK, The Royal Windsor Show or at the following major County Shows. The Great Yorkshire, Royal Cheshire, Royal Bath & West, Devon County, Royal Cornwall, Lincolnshire County, Pembroke County, Royal Norfolk, Nottingham County, Staffordshire County, Royal Lancashire County.

4.33.4 A judge on the Intermediate Panel is not permitted to act as an assessor of a trainee judge.

#### **4.34 ADDITIONAL RULES FOR TRAINEE JUDGES**

4.34.1 Trainee judges are required to study the entirety of the SPS-BS rule book in particular the foregoing Rules for Senior and Intermediate Panel Judges as many of these will apply even at this early stage in your judging career.

4.34.2 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 at all times.

4.34.3 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 must be notified of shows to be attended once permission has been granted.

4.34.4 A trainee should ensure that the senior judge, with whom they have judged a particular show, is given a Trainee Judges Report form and a stamped envelope addressed to the Society. 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 15 ponies forward under one judge. All reports 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 SPS-BS Senior Panel.

4.34.5 A trainee judge must wear the distinguishing red armband, as supplied by the Society, when accompanying a senior judge in the ring.

4.34.6 Trainee judges must not attend shows in this capacity alongside a judge who has acted as their nominating judge or is closely connected.

4.34.7 Trainee judges are not permitted to officiate at shows linked to Society sales.

4.34.8 Trainee judges MUST attend shows out with their local area and not with local judges.

4.34.9 Trainee judges must ensure they undertake Shows with as wide a range of classes as possible, covering all heights of ponies up to 42" and all colours.

4.34.10 Trainee judges must remember that the senior judge is the official judge, and only the senior judge should direct the steward and exhibitors.

4.34.11 Trainee judges should offer their opinions on the ponies only when asked by the senior judge, and not discuss the pony with exhibitors unless instructed to do so by the senior judge.

#### **4.35 ADDITIONAL RULES FOR RIDDEN/DRIVEN JUDGES**

4.35.1 Trainee, Intermediate or Senior Judges may apply to join the Ridden panel by requesting the necessary application form from the SPS-BS Office. Prior to applying to join the Driven panel, Judges must first have successfully completed the BDS trainee scheme.

4.35.2 The Senior Judge under whom the Trainee Ridden or Driven Judge wishes to probation must either have a relevant "R" or "D" against their name on the Society's Senior Panel list or is a BDS Judge.

4.35.3 A minimum of two ridden trainee appointments must be undertaken, with reports submitted by the Senior Judge as detailed in Rule 3.2.4 In order that ridden reports qualify, each show must have a minimum of two flat ridden classes with 10 ponies forward under one judge.

4.35.4 In Flat Ridden classes, a standard cavesson noseband is the only type of noseband permitted. Flash nosebands and martingales are permitted in working hunter pony classes.

4.35.5 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 and the reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The only attachment to the saddle allowed are a crupper or handle. Reins must not be attached to the handle or saddle. The reins must be an appropriate length and not knotted together or stitched together at a shorter length.

4.35.6 In first ridden classes, ponies must not be cantered except for in their individual show. Ponies must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle.

4.35.7 In open ridden classes, any suitable bridle is permitted apart from bitless bridles & running gags.

4.35.8 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.

4.35.9 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.

4.35.10 Whips or show canes carried must not exceed 30" in length. Spurs may not be worn.

4.35.11 Please also refer to the separate additional rules for ridden and driven classes.

4.36.12 Ridden and Driven ponies must be 4 years old or over.

## 5. RULES RELATING TO SPS-BS UK BREED SHOW

### 5.1 AREAS

- 5.1.1 The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society Breed Show will be held annually at different venues throughout the British Isles, giving Members equal opportunity to attend.
- 5.1.2 **The different areas will be invited, on rotation, to hold the show in their area. The area will be notified a minimum of two years prior to the event, working on a five-year rotation. Shetland will hold the show every 10<sup>th</sup> year.**
- 5.1.3 The area will then form a committee, to be notified to and approved by Council (the show committee being responsible to Council).

### 5.2 COMMITTEE

- 5.2.1 The Breed Show Committee must appoint a Treasurer who shall provide a profit & loss account to the Society within 12 months of the Show Day. The show committee will provide Council with regular updates on progress which should include estimated expenditure.
- 5.2.2 Areas having previously held a Breed Show and having shown a surplus of funds which has been returned to the Society, will be offered the principal for that Breed Show.
- 5.2.3 Any Breed Show Committee can receive a loan of up to £2,000 from the Society. The full amount of the loan plus 100% of the profit must be returned to the Society by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year in which the show took place.
- 5.2.4 If the Breed Show fails to leave a surplus, Council will review the circumstances and may decide to underwrite the loss.
- 5.2.5 The Breed Show committee must arrange the Show's Public Liability Insurance Cover in its own right and this cost is to be met from show funds.

### **5.3 JUDGES**

5.3.1 Rules in relation to SPS-BS Panel Judges in section 3 of this rule book apply to the annual Breed Show.

5.3.1 The Breed Show committee may select Judges from the Senior Panel to judge at Breed Shows. Judges may not judge the same section at a Breed Show within five years. The list of Judges must be approved by Council prior to the Judges being invited with the list of proposed Judges submitted to Council for consideration at the spring meeting in the year prior to the Show. Council must be notified of the venue of the Breed Show, and approval given prior to the venue being booked. A copy of the fixed breed show schedule should be sent to Council for approval by the summer meeting in the year prior to the Show.

Judges for Ridden sections must have a panel "R".

Judges for Driven sections must have a panel "D" or may be BDS Judges.

Stewards should be correctly and smartly dressed for the occasion.

5.3.2 Judges invited to officiate at the Breed Show must not undertake any judging appointments for affiliated Shetland pony classes in the year of the Breed Show prior to the Show taking place. Breed Show Secretaries must inform Judges of the above at the time of invitation. Judges must not have ponies of their own entered in the Show.

5.3.4 All five Ring Judges from the Black, Coloured, Small Ponies, Ridden (only one ridden judge) & Driven will undertake the Supreme Championship using the following scoring system: each Judge will be issued with a card and will place each pony (other than that already judged within their own ring) 1 to 4. The chief steward will total the marks and, if there is a tie, the ponies concerned will be marked again as above.

The Overall Championship should be selected from the five ring champions.

### **5.4 SCHEDULES**

5.4.1 A master copy of the schedule format and running order of the Breed Show will be supplied by the SPS-BS Office and MUST be adhered to. Additional classes may be added

### **5.5 CATALOGUES**

5.5.1 A comprehensive catalogue MUST be produced in A5 Booklet format. This must not be seen by the Judges prior to or during the Show. The catalogue must contain the following information for each pony: catalogue number, owner/exhibitor, registered pony name, Date of Birth, colour, sire & dam. No exhibitor addresses must be shown in the catalogue.

## 5.6 RIDDEN CLASSES

5.6.1 In Flat Ridden classes, a standard Cavesson noseband is the only type of noseband permitted. Flash nosebands and martingales are permitted in working hunter pony classes.

### 5.6.2 Summary of Ridden Classes

- Leading Rein class: Riders must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of their class and not to have attained their 9th birthday on 1st January of year of show. In leading 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 and the reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands. The only attachment to the saddle allowed are a crupper or handle. Reins must not be attached to the handle or saddle. The reins must be an appropriate length and not knotted together or stitched together at a shorter length.
- First Ridden class: Off leading rein, riders must have attained their 3rd birthday by the day of their class and not to have attained their 12th birthday on 1st January of year of show. Ponies must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle. Ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show.
- Open Ridden class: Stallions, mares and geldings four years old and over. Any rider of suitable height and weight. Rider any age, except for stallions where the rider must have attained their 12th birthday by the day of their class. Any suitable bridle is permitted apart from bitless bridles & running gags.

5.6.3 In flat ridden classes, 50% of the marks will be awarded for riding and manners and 50% for conformation and breed type.

### 5.6.4 RULES FOR HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW QUALIFIER (Open Ridden Class)

The rules in this section only apply to Horse of the Year Show qualifier.

1. A JMB Full Height Certificate or a JMB Annual Height Certificate issued in the current year must be sent to Grandstand Media after qualification.
2. Judges for the HOYS Ridden class must be approved by the Horse of the Year Show Office.
3. The Horse of the Year Show qualification is subject to confirmation from Horse of the Year Show.
4. Where these classes are held under SPS-BS rules and there is a conflict between these rules and the general rules and regulations of the Horse of the Year Show, the latter will prevail.

## **5.7 WORKING HUNTER PONY CLASSES**

5.7.1 There should be a minimum of 7 fences of rustic type (heights noted below), if possible, with some green material (branches of trees or bushes) should be tied to the wings to make the course look as natural as possible. The jumps should be numbered.

5.7.2 Riders are advised to wear body protectors to the current British Safety Standard.

5.7.3 Riders will walk the course before the class begins and will perform an individual show following their jumping round. The judging will be based on jumping (50 marks); breed type and conformation (20 marks); style of native breed type whilst jumping (20 marks) and individual show and manners within breed type (10 marks).

5.7.4 Nursery Stakes class is as WHP but smaller jumps as per height guidelines below.

Height of WHP jumps

Nursery Stakes – 1'-1'6" (30-45cms)

Novice WHP – 1'6" – 1'9" (45-53cms), spread not to exceed 47cm

WHP – 1'9"-2' (53-60cms), spread not to exceed 60cms.

5.7.5 WHP champion and the Ridden champion are to compete for the Overall Ridden champion. The Overall Ridden champion will go forward to the Supreme Championship. The Ridden Champion must be asked to perform their individual show in the Supreme Championship. It should be clearly announced over the loudspeaker which ponies are required for the Supreme Championships.

## **5.8 DRIVEN CLASSES**

### **5.8.1 Summary of Driving Classes**

- Private Driving  
Open to any turnout to a traditional/traditional type vehicle.
- Exercise Vehicles  
Open to a single, pair or tandem turnout, driven to a two or four wheeled exercise vehicle not of traditional type design and may include those with traditional type wheels or pneumatic carriage tyres, excluding car tyres. Lamps need not be carried. To be judged on cleanliness, safety, fitting of harness and suitability of vehicle.
- Junior Whip  
Open to a single traditional or exercise vehicle turnouts driven by a young driver aged 8 to 17 years on the day of their class. Traditional/traditional-type vehicles and exercise vehicles will be judged on equal merit.
- Novice

Open to a single, pair or tandem turnout novice pony/ponies put to a traditional or exercise vehicle.

5.8.2 The Driven Ring Champion will go forward to the Supreme Championship. The Driven Ring Champion must be asked to perform their individual show in the Supreme Championship. It should be clearly announced over the loudspeaker which ponies are required for the Supreme Championships.

## **5.9 RING SIZES**

Each ring must be an adequate size for the number of ponies entered and must be a minimum of 20 x 40 metres for In-Hand classes, with ridden and driven rings a minimum of 40 x 60 metres. The ring surface should preferably be grass and must be level.

## **5.10 EXHIBITORS**

5.10.1 Rules relating to Exhibitors in Section 1 of this rule book apply to all affiliated shows including the annual Breed Show.

5.10.2 Non-members may exhibit at the Breed Show at a higher entry fee; however, they will not be permitted to take trophies away.

## **5.11 MISCELLANEOUS**

5.11.1 Trophies must be signed for by the recipient and the recipient's membership number should also be clearly noted to facilitate in the return of the trophies to the SPS-BS office. Trophies must be returned engraved and in good clean condition to Shetland House a minimum of six weeks prior to the following Breed Show. The cost of engraving is the responsibility of the trophy winner. Trophies to be returned by hand or by registered post.

5.11.2 The Ian Beever Trust. A special rosette will be awarded to the winning black stallion over 36". These rosettes are available from the SPS-BS office upon request.

5.11.3 SPS-BS office staff will attend Breed Shows at the Society's expense.

5.11.4 The Society may organise advertising in appropriate publications and pay for affiliations approved by Council e.g., PUK, NPS, BDS.

5.11.5 A Breed Show is not required to award prize money unless they wish to do so other than for the HOYS class.

## **5.12 BREED SHOW RULES AND CONDITION OF ENTRY**

1. Ponies entered must be registered in, or in the case of foals, be eligible for registration in the SPS-BS Stud Book.
2. All ponies must be named on the entry form.
3. No entries will be taken on the show field.
4. The show committee reserves the right to split, amend and/or amalgamate classes as necessary depending on entries and to replace a Judge if necessary.
5. Judging to commence at 8.00 am and will not be delayed under any circumstances.
6. Classes in the three In-Hand rings will run concurrently.
7. Once judging of a class has commenced, no late arrivals will be admitted to the ring. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be in the ring on time.
8. Any objection must be made IN WRITING to the Show Secretary within ONE HOUR of the alleged incident, together with a deposit of £50, which will be refunded if the objection is upheld.
9. Foals must not be exhibited under 3 weeks of age and must accompany their dam in the ring in Broodmare classes.
10. Three-year-old fillies with foals at foot may not be shown.
11. Brown ponies are classed as black.
12. Ridden and driven ponies must be 4 years old or over, and no lactating mares may be shown in ridden or driven classes.
13. To enter a stallion in ANY class (in-hand or performance) at an affiliated show, entire males aged 4 years old and over must have an "S" number and have been successfully through either the SPS-BS Stallion assessment prior to 2006 or the current SPS-BS Voluntary Veterinary Examination. Ridden stallions MUST display a stallion bridle badge.
14. In hand colts/stallions of two year old and over must be shown bitted and are advised to display a stallion bridle badge, which are available to purchase from the SPS-BS.
15. There must be no colts or stallions in Young Handler classes.
16. Young Handlers must be a minimum of 3 years of age on the day of the show.
17. Stallions and colts (except foals) may not be shown in hand by children under 14 years; stallions may not be ridden by children under 12 years old on the day of the class.
18. All riders, drivers and handlers aged 14 years and under must wear a correctly secured, current British Standard skull cap or riding hat.
19. A Novice pony is one not to have been placed 1<sup>st</sup> in any class prior to the closing date of entries.
20. A pony is eligible to compete in ONE RING ONLY with the exception of the Ridden, Driven, Young Handler, Progeny and Veteran classes.
21. If a pony is found to be suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, it must be removed from the Showground immediately upon the request of the Show Committee or the Vet.
22. The organisers shall not be liable for injury or loss from any cause or circumstance whatsoever to any person, animal, or property. It is a condition of entry that each exhibitor and competitor shall indemnify the show against any such matters and is

acknowledged by the signing of the entry form. By signing the entry form exhibitors agree to abide by the rules, code of conduct and procedures of The Shetland Pony Stud- Book Society.

23. Only one handler per pony is permitted in the In-Hand classes.
24. Exhibitors must be appropriately dressed, in line with the SPS-BS Showing Rules for Exhibitors and no individual stud, person or pony names displayed in the ring.
25. All riders in the Open ridden classes must be of a suitable height and weight for the pony they are riding.
26. Ponies in the ridden classes must be shown in a suitable bridle.
27. Whips/show canes may be no more than 30 inches long and spurs are not permitted.
28. In ridden classes the rider will be required to perform an individual show. All ponies shall be in the ring for the whole duration of the class (except WHP). Should a rider fall off at any time whilst in the ring, both pony and rider must leave the ring with the rider dismounted and take no further part in the class.
29. Exhibitors should be aware, a Judge may not:
  - a. Place a pony which to their knowledge has been bred, sold, leased, or produced by the judge or their immediate family, partner, business partner or employer;
  - b. Place a pony in which they have had a financial interest since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year;
  - c. Place a stallion by whom they have had a mare stunted in this season;
  - d. Judge any rider/handler who has shown a horse/pony owned, produced, or trained by them since 1<sup>st</sup> January of the preceding year;
  - e. 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;
  - f. A Judge may not have as their Steward any person who owns a pony, has bred a pony or has any other interest, financial or otherwise, in a pony in the class being judged.
30. No ponies to be left on a parked vehicle overnight.
31. Mobile phones are not permitted to be seen or used in the ring under any circumstance either by judge or exhibitor.
32. Where classes are affiliated to societies other than the SPS-BS the other society's rules take precedence.

## 6. SHETLAND PONY BREED STANDARD

### **Height**

Registered stock must not exceed 42 inches (107 cms). Ponies are measured from the withers to the ground, by measuring stick, and a level stance, preferably concrete, should be used.

### **Colour**

Shetland ponies may be any colour known in horses except spotted.

### **Coat**

The coat changes according to the seasons: a double coat in winter with guard hairs which shed the rain and keep the pony's skin completely dry in the worst of the weather and, by contrast, a short summer coat which should carry a beautiful silky sheen. At all times the mane and tail hair should be long, straight and profuse and the feathering of the fetlocks straight and silky.

### **Head**

The head should be small, carried well and in proportion. Ears should be small and erect, wide-set but pointing well forward. Forehead should be broad with bold, dark, intelligent eyes. Muzzle must be broad with nostrils wide and open. Teeth and jaw must be correct.

### **Body**

The neck should be properly set onto the shoulder which, in turn, should be sloping, not upright, and end in a well-defined wither. The body should be strong, with plenty of heart room, well sprung ribs, the loin strong and muscular. The quarters should be broad and long with the tail set well upon them.

### **Forelegs**

Should be well-placed with sufficient good, flat bone. Strong forearm. Short balanced cannon bone. Springy pasterns.

### **Hind Legs**

The thighs should be strong and muscular with well-shaped strong hocks, neither hooky nor too straight. When viewed from behind, the hind legs should not be set too widely apart nor should the hocks be turned in.

### **Feet**

Tough, round and well-shaped- not too short, narrow, contracted or thin.

### **Action**

Straight, free action using every joint. Tracking up well.

### **General**

A most salient and essential feature of the Shetland pony is its general air of vitality (presence), stamina and robustness.

## 7. SAFEGUARDING

The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society has adopted the policies and procedures of the British Equestrian Federation in relation to safeguarding.

The SPS-BS places the highest priority on the safety and enjoyment of children, young people and vulnerable adults participating in equestrian sport and is committed to promoting the highest possible standard of care across the whole Society.

Everyone who is involved in equestrian sport and activities shares the responsibility for safeguarding, and the SPS-BS is working to ensure that the Society operates within an accepted ethical framework to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm, abuse and degrading treatment whilst participating in equestrian sports and activities.

The full Safeguarding Policy documents and more useful information is available on the British equestrian Federation website -

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/getInvolved/safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding>

## 8. SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY

### Introduction

- a) The SPS-BS acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, X, Messenger, Linked In, WhatsApp, email, home webpages, chat rooms, BBM and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which “social media” plays in the day to day lives of members.
- b) This policy note is to remind members that the Rules of the SPS-BS apply to members when using social media and the internet. Failure to adhere to this policy note could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member, which may result in suspension or termination of membership.

### Using Social Media

- a) You should be aware that the SPS-BS may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the SPS-BS and its members.
- b) SPS-BS produced images are the subject of copyright and should not be copied or used in social media save as provided in the SPS-BS website user terms and conditions.
- c) You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to social media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the SPS-BS.
- d) You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the SPS-BS, its members, or former members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the SPS-BS.

- e) You must not post or transmit any material relating to the SPS-BS, members or former members or their horses or ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with, or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the SPS-BS: i. that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience; or ii. which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the SPS-BS Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise, be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in, the UK or any other country in the world.
- f) Any breach of this policy note may constitute a breach of the SPS-BS Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.

#### **Disclosure under Law or Regulation.**

You should be aware that the SPS-BS will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the SPS-BS to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this policy. If we are requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, the SPS-BS is entitled to do so.

## **9. WELFARE CODE OF PRACTICE**

The Shetland Pony Stud Book Society has adopted the DEFRA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses & Ponies. The document has been produced by DEFRA and provides advice and support to SPS-BS members. The full Code of Practice can be downloaded from the SPS-BS website under the welfare section.

## **10. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY/ GUIDELINES FOR SALE OF PEDIGREE SHETLAND PONIES**

1. This sale is run under the auspices of the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society (SPS-BS) and the show is affiliated to the SPS-BS.
2. Ponies must be the bone fide property of the vendor at time of entry and must be registered in their name with the SPS-BS and if castrated must be correctly registered as a gelding.
3. Once entered it is understood that ponies will be forward for the sale. Any vendor withdrawing stock from the sale without a valid reason or vet's certificate will be fined £100 per pony. If the fine is not paid, then the vendor will be unable to enter ponies into subsequent sales.
4. Ponies must not be removed from pens without the owner or his/ her representative being present.
5. At all Sales, if the owner is not present in person, a representative must be nominated in advance who will be responsible for the ponies.
6. All stock must be registered with the SPS-BS. The deadline for foal passport applications is 31<sup>st</sup> July.
7. The minimum age of foals to be sold is eighteen weeks on the day of the Sale even if being sold at foot. The foal's exact date of birth must be stated on the entry form.
8. It must be emphasised that foals, unless being sold at foot, must be living independently, weaned and able to eat hard food.
9. No ponies will be accepted for sale if they have undergone any form of surgical procedure e.g. castration, within 4 weeks of the sale date.
10. Owners who have had ponies suffering from an infectious disease within six weeks of the Sale must not present any ponies for sale. Any ponies showing symptoms of an infectious disease such as coughing, swollen glands, high temperature or a muco-purulent nasal discharge (snotty nose) will be excluded from the Sale.
11. The sale organisers reserve the right to call out a Veterinary Surgeon, at the vendors cost, should the need arise.
12. The sale organisers reserve the right to refuse to offer for sale any equine that the welfare officer or veterinary surgeon deems to be too young or unfit in any way.
13. When a horse or pony goes through the sale ring wearing a head collar or bridle, the animal must be left with a head collar after it is sold, but not necessarily the one it was sold with.  
When a horse or pony goes through the sale ring without a head collar, it would be sold on that understanding.
14. Any ponies over the age of eighteen years must have a Vet's certificate, dated the day before the Sale, stating that the pony is fit to travel. The pony must only be vetted the day immediately prior to the Sale. If no such certificate is received by the Auctioneer, the pony must not be permitted to go forward for sale. No ponies over 20 years of age will be accepted for sale.
15. Any mare or filly that has been running with an entire male that has not passed the SPSBS Voluntary Vetting Examination (VVE) will not be accepted for sale.
16. If a mare is in foal, it is assumed it is to a stallion registered with SPS- BS. The covering stallion's name and registration number and date(s) of covering must be clearly stated on the entry form. As from 1 January 2022 all foals registered with the SPS-BS must have a DNA profile of the sire completed. Buyers need to be aware of this when purchasing an in foal mare.
17. In the interests of welfare, lactating mares without a foal at foot will not be accepted for sale, nor will mares due to foal within eight weeks or less of the date of the sale. Mares 3 years old or younger with a foal at foot will not be accepted for sale. Fillies younger than 3 years old that have been running with a stallion will not be accepted for sale.

18. Entry forms MUST be completed in full or they will not be accepted
19. Entry fees are detailed on the sale entry form
20. If ponies are catalogued, as “for sale due to stud dispersal”, it is assumed that the ponies will be sold and not taken home unsold.
21. In the interests of welfare, working ponies of four years old or over only may be clipped on the body only.
22. Passports & microchips for ponies will be checked at the sale. Vendors must ensure they contact a “checker” immediately upon arrival at the Mart to have their ponies’ passports checked prior to handing your passports to the auctioneer’s office. It is the responsibility of the vendor or any person acting on their behalf to ensure that this is carried out.
23. A pony will not be permitted to be presented for sale unless a checked passport has been received by the Auctioneer’s Office prior to the Sale. The Passport must then be passed to the new owner for the onward journey.
24. TRANSFER FEES – Please note that it is now the responsibility of NEW OWNERS to pay the transfer fees for ponies they have purchased. The same rates apply for both members & non-members. All transfer fees are £20 per pony. THESE TRANSFER FEES WILL BE CHARGED ON TOP OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF ANY PONY YOU BUY.
25. VALUE ADDED TAX - Where ponies are sold from consignors who are VAT registered, VAT will be added to the Auctioneer’s knock down price.
26. If a pony is to be exported, the purchaser is responsible for arranging an International Pony Movement Certificate (IPMC) and a fee of £50 is payable to the SPS-BS. Export fees and arrangements will be in addition to this and are the responsibility of the purchaser.
27. The Society reserves the right to randomly DNA test ponies which would involve taking a hair sample.
28. The sale show is affiliated to the SPS-BS and will be judged under their rules. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to familiarise themselves with these rules prior to entering.
29. Entire males aged 2 years and over must be bitted and it is recommended that they display a stallion badge on their bridle both in the Show, Sale Ring and when outside their pens.
30. All 4 year old and over entire males must be in possession of their VVE to be entered into the showing classes, entire males 4 years old and over without their VVE cannot be shown.
31. Buyers are reminded that any ponies they purchase are at their risk at the fall of the hammer. No undertaking of the Auctioneers or their servants to take charge of any lots after the sale or to forward them to their destination shall be held to impose upon the Auctioneers any legal obligation. Whilst every effort is made by the organisers to ensure that the information given regarding pedigree, ownership, detail of colour and date of birth is correct, the responsibility remains with the prospective purchaser to verify these details. Liability for errors and omissions will not be accepted by the Society or Auctioneers.
32. It is good practice to isolate any newly acquired animals for at least two weeks before mixing with other equines or attending any events.
33. Children aged 14 years and under must wear a hard hat conforming to the current British Safety standards both in-hand & ridden. For health & safety purposes handlers/exhibitors must not kneel whether in the show ring or sale ring.
34. The dress code for the showing section at society sales can be relaxed but standard showing attire is preferred.

## 11. TRAINEE JUDGES ASSESSMENT SCHEME

### Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

Shetland House, 22 York Place  
Perth, PH2 8EH  
Scotland

**Tel:** 01738 623471

**Email:** [enquiries@shetlandponystudbooksociety.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shetlandponystudbooksociety.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.shetlandponystudbooksociety.co.uk](http://www.shetlandponystudbooksociety.co.uk)



### SHETLAND PONY STUD BOOK SOCIETY TRAINEE JUDGES ASSESSMENT SCHEME

#### INFORMATION PACK FOR APPLICANTS

Welcome to the first step in your process towards potentially becoming a Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society Judge.

Please read the information contained in this pack thoroughly before embarking on the application process.

Closing Date for Applications is set annually

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact the Society office via the details above.



## Application Process & Guidelines

Check you are eligible to apply – Applicants must be at least 20 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of applying and must be a current member of the SPSBS for a minimum of 4 consecutive years.

Familiarise yourself carefully with the Application Pack.

Complete the first section on the Nominating Judge's Questionnaire and send a copy of your application together with the Questionnaire to your nominator. You must provide them with a stamped addressed envelope to enable them to return their completed Questionnaire to the SPSBS Office.

No applicant can be nominated by a current SPSBS Council member.

Serving council members are ineligible to apply for the trainee judges assessment scheme

No SPSBS panel judge may sign a nomination form for a family member.

No SPSBS panel judge may nominate more than one applicant per assessment.

Submit Your Completed Application and accompanying CV to the SPSBS Office by the closing date, late applications will not be accepted. You must also ensure that your nominating judge's form is submitted by the closing date. Please complete your application as fully as possible.

Applications will be reviewed at the SPSBS Council Meeting following the application closing date. Council will shortlist candidates using the information supplied on each application form and CV.

A maximum of 6 candidates will be invited to attend the assessment day. The assessment day and venue will be set annually.

There is a £20 charge per applicant to attend the assessment day.

The closing date for applications is decided annually.

If invited to attend the assessment day, applicants must undertake 2 stewarding appointments, under any recognised pony panel judge not just SPSBS, BEFORE attending the assessment day. Stewarding report forms must be completed by the officiating judge and submitted to the Society office once completed. This must be prior to the assessment day.

Applicants invited for assessment will be expected to be neatly and appropriately dressed – as though attending a show in a judging capacity.

At the assessment day applicants will be expected to judge ridden and in-hand ponies of mixed heights and colours, explain their reasoning for placings and respond to scenarios regarding situations that may arise when judging.

Assessed candidates will be notified following the SPSBS meeting, after assessment, whether they have been successful or not.

If successful, following assessment, applicants will go forward to the trainee judges' probationary panel and must complete a 2 year probationary period with 2 In Hand probationary judging appointments to be undertaken each year. Should you wish to be considered for the Ridden Judges Panel you will be required to undertake 2 ridden probationary appointments also. These may be undertaken consecutively however you may only progress on to the ridden panel once the In Hand probationary requirements have been successfully met.

Candidates must undertake probationary appointments with judges that they are unfamiliar with. If a connection is deemed to be too close, by council, the probationary report will be deemed null and void and another appointment must be undertaken.

Once the probationary appointments have been completed the reports will go to council at the autumn meeting of that year. If the entire probationary period is completed successfully then the applicant will move on to the intermediate judges' panel.

If successful, Judges Seminars are arranged by the SPS-BS. It is compulsory for SPS-BS panel & trainee Judges to attend one of these seminars every 3 years within a 3 year rolling period. Current topical issues will be discussed. Failure to attend will result in removal from the judging panel until such time as a Seminar has been attended.

Applying to join the trainee scheme does not necessarily mean automatic invitation to the trainee assessment day or acceptance on to the trainee panel. A maximum of 6 applicants will go forward onto the probationary panel following the assessment day.

Judges reports and assessors feedback forms are confidential and will not be made available for viewing.

You must adhere to the SPSBS Rule Book included in this pack. You will be expected to be very familiar with this and to ensure the rules are upheld at all times. The rule book is reviewed annually.

For ridden probationary judges the Society highly recommends the Shetland Performance Show as a probationary option.