

GENERAL SHOW RULES

- 1 THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.**
- 2 NO BEHAVIOUR OF AN OFFENSIVE, ABUSIVE OR UNPLEASANT MANNER** to any person at Equifest will be tolerated. Any act of discourtesy to any Judge, Steward or any Show Official on the part of the competitor groom, rider, driver or agent of an animal, will, at the discretion of such Official disqualify that animal from being judged, in which case entry fees, prizes and all other fees will be forfeited. **Exhibitors are reminded of their responsibility for the actions of others within their party.**
- 3 THE EQUIFEST COMMITTEE RETAINS AT ITS ABSOLUTE DISCRETION THE RIGHT** to decline or exclude or remove any person or animal from the show or future shows or return any entry fee without being required to assign reason or being liable for any compensation.
- 4 ENTRY / STABLING FEES / HOOK UPS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE AFTER THE 21ST JULY 2027 UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE** – even with a Doctor / Veterinary Certificate. Exhibitors wishing to request a refund must apply in writing by midnight on the **21st July 2027**. A full refund will be given **minus a £10.00 Administration fee** for any entries, stabling or hook up fees cancelled before the close of entries.
- 5 NO SUBSTITUTIONS OF HORSE OR PONY WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE SHOW. Any substitution of horses MUST be made by WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY 2027.**
- 6 AMENDMENTS OF ENTRIES** – entries will be amended free of charge up to **WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY 2027**. After this date any amendments must be made at the show. All amendments made at the show will incur a **£5** administration fee. Entries are **NOT** transferrable between competitors.
- 7 ADDITIONAL ENTRIES** – Additional entries may be made at the show office from 12.00noon Tuesday 3rd August. Entries made the same day on which the class is taking place must be made at least 1 hour before the scheduled start time as per the timetable. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they allow sufficient time before the class commences. No refund will be given if the exhibitor does not allow sufficient time when making the entry.
- 8 THE PERSON WHO SUBMITS THE ENTRY FORM** is deemed to be the owner / exhibitor of that entry.
- 9 ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY FULL PAYMENT.**
- 10 THE SUBMISSION OF ALL ENTRIES THROUGH THE ON LINE SYSTEM** signifies acceptance of all Equifest rules and conditions.
- 11 CHEQUES** – unfortunately **no** cheques can be accepted. Payment to be made either on line, credit / debit card or by BACS please.
- 12 CANCELLATION OF / OR ALTERATION TO CLASSES** - The Equifest Show Committee reserves the right to cancel, divide or amalgamate or otherwise change any class or to limit entries in any class or section from any entrant.
- 13 COMPETITOR NUMBERS MUST BE WORN / CLEARLY** displayed at all times whilst mounted. This includes working in / exercising around the showground.
- 14 ALL RIDDEN / DRIVEN ANIMALS MUST BE 4 YEARS OLD AND OVER.** The age of the animal shall be calculated from the 1st January in the year of its birth.
- 15 ALL EQUINES MUST BE LED, RIDDEN OR DRIVEN AND UNDER THE CONTROL** of a competent person at all times. Handlers of Lead Rein ponies must be at least **14** years of age. Junior Drivers (under the age of **18** years old) **MUST** have a competent person in the vehicle with them at all times. Failure to observe any of the rules may result in disqualification of the animal concerned and/or the Exhibitor may be requested to leave the showground.
- 16 CONTAGIOUS DISEASE** – All equines must be vaccinated against Equine Flu. The vaccination rules are as follows: **Primary vaccination course** - For horses starting a new vaccination course: First vaccination (V1), Second vaccination (V2) must be given 21-60 days after V1, First booster (V3) must be given 120-180 days after V2. **Ongoing boosters** - Must then be kept up to date at intervals of no more than 12 months. **7-day vaccination rule** - A horse or pony cannot compete or attend activities within 7 days of any flu vaccination. **Spot checks on passports may be carried out.**
- 17 EXHIBITORS ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY PASSPORTS** – Exhibitors are required by DEFRA to carry with them Official Identity Documents for all horses/ponies when competing or travelling. Competitors are reminded that it is a DEFRA requirement that the Official Identity Documents must be in the name of the legal owner within 30 days of ownership. This must be registered with the breed society, relevant studbook or ID issuing agency, dependant on breed/type of animal.
- 18 NO PERSON SHALL ILL-TREAT ANIMALS AT ANY TIME** whether by misuse/excessive use of a whip, bit, or any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever.

- 19 DOGS** - For reasons of safety and to prevent nuisance, dogs can only be permitted on the Showground whilst on a lead. Exhibitors **MUST** clean up after their dogs. Any person found to disregard this rule will be fined. Lost dogs will be compounded and will not be released until a payment of **£20** is made. All payments will be donated to an animal charity of our choice. Dogs must be kept under control and on a lead at all times whilst on the showground.
- 20 MOTOR BIKES, QUAD BIKES & HOVER BOARDS** will **NOT** be permitted on the Showground.
- 21 BICYCLES & SCOOTERS** will **NOT** be allowed on the Showground.
- 22 AGE OF HORSES / RIDERS / JUNIOR MEMBERS** – is taken from the 1st January in the current year unless stated otherwise in the schedule. All riders competing in any showing class must have attained their 3rd birthday by the date of the show.
- 23 PRIVATELY OWNED BUGGIES / HIRED BUGGIES** – may **NOT** be driven around the showground – unless an exemption has been granted **in writing** by the Equifest Committee. Only exhibitors with a medical disability will be granted dispensation. All persons must have a valid, full UK Driving License to drive any buggy or other motorised vehicle on the showground. Disabled visitors may bring their own buggies onto the Showground – but must have appropriate insurance.
- 24 OBJECTIONS** – Any exhibitor at the show feeling himself aggrieved must make his protest in writing within one hour of the completion of the judging of the class and pay a deposit to the Show Secretary of **£50.00**. Objections will not be entertained from any person or organisation not exhibiting in the same class as the animal to which the objection is raised. An Appeal Tribunal will consider objections at a time and place to be fixed by them and the person making the objection must be available to attend should it be deemed necessary. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final and if the protest is not substantiated the deposit will be forfeited
- 25 All belongings should be securely kept locked up. No responsibility by the Equifest Committee can be taken for theft or damage to belongings left unattended.**
- 26 INSURANCE:**
- (a) It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to insure all property and livestock on the Showground or elsewhere which is his own, or for which he is responsible.
 - (b) Equifest requires exhibitors to affect Employers Liability insurance where this is required by statute.
 - (c) Equifest also requires affecting Public Liability and Products Liability insurance with a minimum indemnity of £1,000,000 to protect their liability.

JUDGING OF CLASSES, TACK & CLOTHING

- 27 JUDGING TIMES** are as accurate as possible at the time of printing, but it is advisable to check with the revised timetable nearer to the Show. Judging is in timetable order unless otherwise stated.
- 28 PRE-JUDGING** - In all cases where pre-judging is scheduled, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to report to the Ring at the appointed time. **Exhibitors who do not participate in the pre-judging will not be allowed to compete in the final judging during the Evening Performance.**
- 29 JUDGING OF CLASSES** – no animal or rider may leave the ring without permission of the Judge and Ring Steward. Once the class has commenced there shall be no change of rider, except in a championship when a rider finds that they have more than one exhibit to compete. The substitute rider must be eligible for the class and the Ring Steward informed of the change of rider.
- 30 FALL OF HORSE / RIDER** – a fall of horse or rider while mounted in any class will result in disqualification and they **MUST** leave the ring dismounted. All Junior Riders (under the age of 16 years old) **MUST** be cleared by a member of the medical team **BEFORE** remounting. The junior rider will not be permitted to compete in any further class if they refuse medical assessment.
- 31 CONCLUSION OF THE CLASS** – Exhibitors are under the jurisdiction of the Judge(s) until asked to leave the line, after rosettes have been presented. Judges should consider behaviour at prize giving and should take action if appropriate.
- 32 IN HAND HORSES** – If an in hand animal gets loose from its handler whilst in the Ring or during the conformation phase of any ridden class it will result in disqualification.
- 33 CLOSING OF CLASS** – A class is deemed to have commenced when an animal enters the ring, if the Judge is present in the ring. If the Judge is not present, then the class shall commence when the Judge enters the ring. Exhibitors will not be allowed into the ring after the ponies/horses have been asked to trot.
- 34 EXHIBITORS** may not knowingly exhibit a pony that has been bred, sold, leased, produced, broken, ridden or trained by the Judge and/or his/her immediate family or his/her employer or anyone with whom he/she resides since **1st August 2025**.

- 35 **JUDGES** may not knowingly judge a horse/pony that has been owned, produced, exhibited, bred or ridden by them or by anyone with whom they are in a business/personal partnership with or by anyone they employ or by anyone who employs them since **1st August 2025**.
- 36 **ALL RIDE JUDGES** must wear a correctly secured hat to the approved current BSI standard at all times whilst mounted. Any Ride Judge who falls or is thrown whilst judging may not continue to ride the exhibits or ride judge any further exhibits until passed as fit by the medical team. If the Judge can continue his / her duties, then all exhibits in the class must give an individual show (including any exhibit previously ridden). If the Judge is not capable of continuing, an appropriately qualified replacement may be appointed.
- 37 **HATS (DAY TIME)** – Correctly secured British Standard Skull Caps / Riding Hats that meet current approved BSI or European Safety Standards **MUST** be worn by all riders during the day classes. A rider, whose strap comes undone whilst competing must on penalty of disqualification, replace it or fasten it before continuing. The rider may stop without penalty to refasten the strap. Handlers of horses / ponies competing in Handler / In Hand classes aged 14 years & under must wear a secured current BSI standard Skull / Riding Hat. All Young Drivers must wear a securely fastened safety hat whilst in the carriage.
- 38 **HATS (EVENING PERFORMANCE)** – In the Evening Performances (and any associated pre-judging) Top Hats or Bowlers may be worn by riders that are **18** years and over **AT THEIR OWN RISK**. All riders 18 years old & over who wish to wear a hat that does not reach the current BSI standards during the Evening Performances **MUST** sign a hat disclaimer form obtainable from the Show Office **before** the Evening Performance and have the disclaimer card in their pockets at all time while mounted. A rider whose hat falls off in the Evening Performance will be disqualified.
- 39 **BITS / BRIDLES** - In all classes, unless otherwise stated, any suitable bit is acceptable.
- 40 **EAR RINGS / PIERCINGS** – in the interest of safety, no ear rings, piercings, or visible jewellery should be worn whilst competing.
- 41 **BODY PROTECTORS** – may be worn and are recommended whilst competing in WHP/Eventing classes.
- 42 **SPURS / DRESS SPURS** must **NOT** be worn in any Equitation, Show Pony / Show Hunter Pony / Young Riders / Beginners Showing / Novice Rider / Veteran / 4, 5, 6 Year Old Ridden / Junior / Working Hunter Pony / Ridden Mountain & Moorland and Mountain & Moorland WHP Classes.
- 43 **SHOW CANES** – are not to exceed 75cms (30"). Hunting crops are permissible for ridden Hunter or WH / WHP classes.
- 44 **HANDLES ON SADDLES** – are permitted in Lead Rein classes.
- 45 **LEAD REIN, FIRST RIDDEN OR JUNIOR CLASSES** – reins must be of a normal length and not knotted together or stitched together into a short loop. In Lead Rein classes the reins must not be attached to the saddle and must run directly from the bit to the child's hands with no interruption.
- 46 **MOBILE TELEPHONES, EARPIECES, AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES** must not be used in the ring.
- 47 **MEASUREMENTS** - The Equifest Show Committee reserves the right to measure any type of class by their official Veterinary Surgeon on the Showground unless exhibitors are able to produce a valid Height Certificate to the Veterinary Surgeon and / or Steward in charge on the day.
- 48 **STALLIONS** – in the interest of safety, stallions may only be ridden / driven / handled by persons over the age of **14 years** by the 1st January in the current year with the exception of Small Breeds Mountain & Moorland stallions when the rider / handler must have attained their **12th birthday** by the 1st January in the current year. Stallions are not permitted in any Young Handler, Equitation, Junior Ridden, Lead Rein or First Ridden classes. Drivers of stallions must have an active, responsible adult with them at all times.
- 49 **SHOES & SHOEING** - All horses competing in classes where the Judge rides the exhibits on the **GRASS RINGS** must be shod all round. Horses competing on any of the surfaces or where there is not a Ride Judge for the class may be left un-shod at the discretion of the owner/keeper.
- 50 **RIDERS WITH A DISABILITY** – At Equifest we encourage riders of all abilities to compete and enjoy their horses / ponies. Not all disabilities are visible so we have printed cards that can be collected from the Show Office. These should then be completed and handed to the Steward of the Ring to alert them that the rider may need additional assistance.
- 51 **SIDE SADDLE** – Horses and ponies may be ridden side saddle in any class. Where a class requires the exhibit to be ridden by a Ride Judge, the exhibitor must provide a suitable astride saddle for the Judge's use. The animal may only be ridden once by the Judge, and this must be astride in accordance with the class.

STABLES & ELECTRICAL HOOK UPS

- 52 ENTRY / STABLING FEES / HOOK UPS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE AFTER THE CLOSE OF ON-LINE ENTRIES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE** – even with a Doctor / Veterinary Certificate. Exhibitors wishing to request a refund must apply in writing by midnight on the **21st July 2027**. A full refund will be given **minus a £10.00 Administration fee** for any entries, stabling or hook up fees cancelled by midnight on this date.
- 53 THE MAJORITY OF STABLES ON THE SHOWGROUND ARE TEMPORARY STABLES.**
- 54 BEDDING** – only shavings or wood based bedding may be used. Shavings are available for purchase at the showground.
- 55 STABLING & HOOK UPS** – are subject to availability and will be issued on a “first come” basis. **Stables are NON-TRANSFERABLE.**
- 56 STABLE BOOKINGS – ALL** stable bookings **MUST** be accompanied by at least one entry per stable booked.
- 57 HORSES / PONIES MUST NOT BE LEFT IN HORSE BOXES / TRAILERS OVERNIGHT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

WORKING HUNTER / WORKING HUNTER PONY & PERFORMANCE CLASSES

- 58 WRONG COURSE** - Any horse / pony taking the wrong course or jumping another fence after completing the course will be eliminated.
- 59 REFUSAL** - If a pony/horse turns its quarters to a fence or has a complete turn round or crosses its tracks on approach to the next fence a refusal will be given.
- 60 FRONT BOOTS** are permissible in the Jumping Phase of any Working Hunter / Working Hunter Pony, Performance, Eventer classes and Show Jumping Competitions, but they must be removed before the conformation phase. **At no other time can a change of saddlery be permitted.**
- 61 DISOBEDIENCE** – horses / ponies displaying disobedience - mounted or dismounted - during either phase will be eliminated.
- 62 FALLS** - The fall of horse and/or rider anywhere on the course will result in elimination. The Rider may not attempt another fence but must leave the arena immediately on foot.
- 63 EQUALITY OF MARKS** - In the event of equality of marks, the **TOTAL** mark from Phase One will take precedence, followed by the Manners Mark and then the Conformation Mark. If there is still a tie, the Judge's decision is final.
- 64 MULTIPLE ENTRIES** - A competitor may ride more than one exhibit (maximum 2) in a Novice Working Hunter/Pony, Open Working Hunter/Pony, M&M Working Hunter Pony, Style & Performance, Competition/Potential Dressage Horse/Pony and WH/WHP Performance Classes, **but before the final phase must nominate to the Ring Steward which horse/pony he/she will ride for the final presentation of marks and rosettes.** Once the class has commenced there shall be no change of rider, except in a Championship.

EQUINE WELFARE – PLEASE READ

PLEASE NOTE: Under the Animal Welfare Act (2006), the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, (hereafter referred to as *The Welfare Acts*) every horse owner or those responsible for a horse have a duty of care to ensure the animal's well-being. Thus, causing suffering and ill treatment are no longer the only grounds for prosecution under animal welfare law. It is now an offence to fail to take adequate steps to ensure a horse's welfare, even if the animal is not yet at the point of suffering. ***In particular, please note the following regulations:***

- 58. WELFARE ACTS** - Under the Welfare Acts the parents / guardians of children under 16 years old are responsible for the welfare of their children's horses/ponies.
- 59. HEALTH & HYGIENE** - The spread of equine disease is a perpetual risk when attending shows. Horse owners should act responsibly and not attend a show if there is a disease outbreak at their yard, even if the horse / pony taken to the show does not appear ill. This is because some diseases have an incubation period of 14 days. For more information and guidance, please refer to the information available on the BHS website and British Equestrian website.
- 60. VISIBLE BLOOD** - On rare occasions a horse / pony may injure itself traveling, being worked in or competing, or blood may be noticed from the mouth or nostrils or other parts of the animal's body. In these circumstances the competitor should not compete or cease competing and get their horse / pony checked as soon as possible. The animal should be treated and where necessary the person responsible for the horse / pony should seek veterinary advice and attention to ensure the animal can travel home or continue to compete in further classes on the day.

61. **EQUINE OBESITY** - must be avoided and all horses / ponies exhibited should be fit for purpose for the event or class they are competing in. Having a horse / pony which is obese is extremely detrimental to its welfare and animals carrying too much fat are at a significantly increased risk of developing serious health and welfare issues
62. **SENSORY WHISKERS** - are the hard hairs located on the horse's muzzle and around the eyes, also known as 'whiskers' that are used for sensation. It is recommended that horses should not have whiskers trimmed or removed (other than for veterinary purposes or with a vet's certificate). **Brood Mares, foals and youngstock should present with no evidence of whiskers or sensory hairs having been removed.**
63. **UNATTENDED HORSES** - No horse should be left unattended unless they are in a stable, horsebox/trailer and known to behave sensibly when ordinarily left in such a situation.
64. **TYING UP OF HORSES** - For safety reasons horses or ponies should not be left unattended tied to a horsebox/trailer at any time.
65. **WORKING IN OF HORSES / PONIES** - The amount of work the horse undertakes should be in accordance with its age, experience, fitness and weather conditions.
66. **LAMENESS** – any horse that is deemed to be unsound in the opinion of the Equifest Veterinary Surgeon will not be able to compete in any further classes until re-examined by the Veterinary Surgeon and passed as fit.
67. **TACK** – all equines on the showground can only be warmed up in the tack that they will be wearing in the show ring.
68. **SUITABLY MOUNTED** - All animals ridden anywhere on the Showground, rings or lorry parks (day or night), must only be ridden by a rider whose size and weight does not compromise the animal's welfare. Equifest operates under the **20% rider weight guideline** where the rider **in full riding attire with full tack** must be less than 20% of the animal's bodyweight. This is based on a relatively fit, healthy animal, as an overweight animal is also a welfare concern.
69. **WELFARE OFFICERS**, appointed by Equifest, will be monitoring the Equine Areas and have the power to ask riders deemed too large to dismount and have the right to examine all saddles and bridles for the correct fitting and application.

DEFINITIONS FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES AT EQUIFEST 2027

REGISTERED MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND PONIES – Mountain and Moorland ponies must be registered in the main body of their respective Breed Society Stud Books to compete in the Mountain and Moorland classes. All ponies exhibited in Mountain and Moorland classes are to be trimmed only within their Breed Society specification. False hair pieces are not permitted.

PROFESSIONAL PRODUCER – A Professional Show Producer is a person who derives an income from keeping and training horses and ponies for the show ring ***even if this is not their sole or main source of income.***

NOVICE CLASSES – These classes are open to all horses and ponies that have not won more than **three** first prizes at any show in an **OPEN** classification on or before the **1st January in the current year irrespective of prize money.** Horses / Ponies that have **competed at Horse Of The Year Show, Royal International Horse Show or London International Horse Show** or won a Championship / Finals class at BSHA, BSPS, BSPA, CHAPS, NCPA, NPS, UKPH, SHB(GB), TGCA, TSR or Equifest will instantly be de-noviced. It is anticipated that exhibitors will enter in the true spirit of this competition.

RESTRICTED CLASSES – These classes are open to all **HORSES / PONIES** that have ***not competed in any class*** at the Royal International Horse Show in the years of **2025, 2026 or 2027** or the Horse of the Year Show / London International Horse Show in the years of **2025 or 2026.** This includes horses and ponies that have competed for Search for a Star in 2025 or 2026 at the finals. It is anticipated that exhibitors will enter in the true spirit of this competition.

*Animals and riders in **Home Produced** and **Amateur** classes must not receive any assistance from Professional Trainers or Producers on the day of the competition. (This includes preparation and training of the animal and the rider for the competition at the show). **Exhibitors are encouraged to participate in training programmes but riders who have received individual training may not exhibit under that person.***

AMATEUR CLASSES – These classes are restricted to exhibitors who for showing purposes have not engaged in buying / selling / dealing or providing either full or part livery for horses / ponies as a means of deriving a source of income since 1st January 2024. Exhibitors must not:

- a) Engage in breeding, full or part livery, buying, selling or dealing in a **commercial capacity**.
- b) Receive remuneration, whether it be monetary or goods in kind, for employment in the connection with horses in racing, showing, full or part livery or riding school (instruction at Pony Club and Riding Club excepted). This does not include the suppliers of ancillary services such as Saddlers, Equine Dentists, Farriers, Vets and Commentators.
- c) Have worked or shown for a professional Producer in any equestrian discipline since 1st January 2024.
- d) Show a horse / pony owned or sponsored by a company or commercial firm **or act as a Brand Ambassador for any company or commercial firm**.
- e) On the day when an exhibit is competing in an Amateur class, Professionals Producers are not allowed to prepare, ride or work in the relevant animal. No Professional Producers are allowed into the ring to groom/strip the horse.

HOME PRODUCED CLASSES – These classes are open to horses and ponies that have been stabled at home (without any paid assistance) or kept at livery on a DIY basis only since 1st January 2026. Horses / ponies must not have been shown or trained by a professional Producer or kept at full or part livery at any time during this period (except for service in the case of Brood Mares). Riders / handlers / owners must not have worked for a professional producer in any equestrian discipline since the 1st January 2024. To be owned / kept, produced, ridden / handled by a person who is not engaged in the training of handlers / riders / horses & ponies **OR** runs a full / part livery yard / buys and sells any equine **OR** deals in horses / ponies as a means of deriving an income. Stud fees are acceptable.