

REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO EQUINE EXHIBITORS

See also General Rules and Regulations for exhibitors on our website.

Procedures for movement of equine animals are listed in the Show Guidance for exhibitors. A copy can be downloaded from the DAERA website.

E1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Equines may only be entered in one section, either horse or pony.

The owners details of horses and ponies entered must be submitted on the entry form and these details should match the ownership on the passport.

The ages of all horses competing to be calculated from 1st January. Yearlings must provide date of birth on entry form.

Passport numbers must be supplied with the entry, otherwise entry will be null and void.

Passports must accompany all horses and be available for inspection. Horses without passports **will not** be permitted into the showgrounds.

E2. ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS

In order to establish that riders of horses and ponies are of the correct age for the class entered, it will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that the passport or birth certificate of the rider is available for inspection by the stewards if requested. Riders to be correct age for the height of the pony.

Ponies are only allowed to be ridden on the Show Grounds by riders of the appropriate age, in accordance with the class specification for which it is entered.

E3. NUMBERS

Back numbers, corresponding with the catalogue number of the animal will be provided, and **must be worn by the grooms or riders**, at all times, or in the case of harness horses, on the back of the carriages. Bridle numbers are also provided, and these must be worn when the exhibits are out of the stables. If these numbers are not clearly displayed, you will not be allowed to enter the warm up area.

E4. DRESS

Each rider and groom must be correctly dressed, and protective headgear conforming to the current safety standards should be worn at all times whilst mounted.

All exhibitors are encouraged to wear recommended protective headgear to BSI standard with chin strap but in the working hunter horse classes and in the ridden and working hunter children's pony classes, exhibitors must wear a riding hat complying with the current safety standards at all times whilst mounted. All exhibitors under 18 years in the Private Driving and Light Trade section should wear protective headgear complying with the current safety standards.

All riders should be correctly dressed when walking the course (no denims should be worn).

No earrings, piercings, or visible jewellery should be worn.

E5: HEALTH DECLARATION & VACCINATIONS

Each animal will be examined on arrival at the Showgrounds, by a veterinary surgeon appointed by the Society, before being permitted to occupy its loose box or at any other time during the Show.

Compulsory Vaccination against Equine Influenza – All equine animals wishing to compete at Balmoral Show must be vaccinated against equine influenza – no equine will be admitted to the show ground unless they have the following;

Compulsory Vaccination against Equine Influenza - All equine animals wishing to compete at Balmoral Show must be vaccinated against equine influenza - no equine will be admitted to the show ground unless they have the following;

- **A minimum of the Primary course consisting of 2 vaccinations, not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart (not within 7 days of the show).**
- **A booster must then be given 150 - 215 days after the 2nd primary vaccination (not within 7 days of the show).**
- **An annual booster must be given within 12 months of the previous vaccination (not within 7 days of the show).**

All vaccinations must be properly documented in the animal's passport and signed by a veterinary surgeon and stamped with their official practice stamp to authenticate each vaccination.

Please note: Foals should be vaccinated from 5 months.

If there is a current outbreak of Equine Influenza in Ireland, G.B. USA and other European countries – please ensure that all Persons Responsible (Owners/Athletes) keep up to date with FEI, HSI and SJI requirements regarding vaccinations, and biosecurity best hygiene practices, as they may have to be amended should further outbreaks continue. Updates will be found on the appropriate websites. All passports must be up to date, or entry to the Showgrounds will not be allowed.

Control: The influenza virus is easily destroyed outside the body. Cleanliness is required to control it. The greatest risk spread appears to be by nasal discharge and by attendant's hands. Horses may harbor the virus for approx. nine to ten days after coughing ceases. The virus will survive in wet, humid conditions in horse boxes, stables etc but in dry or warm dry conditions it soon dies.

E6: RANDOM DOPE TESTING

Equines entered at Balmoral Show may be subject to sampling for illegal substance

Tests will be carried out by the Society's appointed veterinary surgeon and a steward will accompany the veterinary surgeon when tests are being taken.

Should the sample taken prove positive, on analysis, for a prohibited substance, the exhibit will be disqualified.

E7: GROOMS

If any groom is absent from his horse at the time of judging, the horse will be liable to be excluded from competition. Grooms in charge of horses remaining in the Showground overnight must be in attendance at 7am each morning to clean out the stables.

E8: STABLING

A stable is no longer included with your entry and must be booked when completing your entries.

NB: Exhibitors are not permitted to work from their horse boxes/lorries and must book a stable for the required night(s), with the exception of, Clydesdales/Agri Horses, Driving & Hackney Classes and Donkeys.

Stables will include some shavings which have kindly provided by Bluefrog. A limited supply of shavings will be available to purchase from the stable manager.

Equestrian Farms feeds can deliver additional bedding if ordered in advance. It is advisable to use rubber mats in stables due to ground conditions.

No horse may be stabled in a stable other than that allocated to it by Society officials.

Any Horse in isolation will not be allowed out of the isolation box, except by order of one of the stewards or a senior member of staff.

E9: EXERCISING

Ridden horses and led horses will be allowed to exercise in the warmup areas. Exercising in the judging rings or main arena is strictly prohibited.

All arenas and the lunging pen will be closed between **10.30pm & 5am (Tuesday – Saturday)**. All equines must be stabled during these times except in the case of an emergency. Any exhibitor seen violating this rule will have all entries cancelled and/or any prizes/placings already gained made null and void. (Also see rule 44 of the General Rules and Regulations)

Lunging in the Horse Rings practice arena is only permitted on: Tuesday 13th May from 9am – 10.30pm and Wednesday 15th May from 5.am – 12noon. Those wishing to lunge outside of these times must use the lunge pen.

The exercising or examination of horses on the paths or roadways is strictly forbidden.

E10: PARADES

A parade of prizewinning young stock horses will take place in P&O Arena on Wednesday 14 May. The Champion, Reserve Champion and 1st – 3rd prize winners in each class will be required to participate.

A parade of prizewinning horses will take place in the Main Arena on Thursday 15 May. The Champions, Reserve Champions and 1st – 3rd prize winners in the following classes are required to participate; Ridden Hunter, Coloured Horses, Ladies Hunters Astride, Ladies Side Saddle - Balmoral Classic Competition, Riding Horses, Ridden Irish Draught, Performance Irish Draught and Ridden Connemara Ponies.

A parade of prizewinning Heavy horses will take place on Friday 16 May in the P&O Arena. The Champion, reserve champion and 1st – 3rd prize winners in each class are required to participate.

Exhibitors will be advised of the collection arrangements for parades at the time of the presentation of class prizes.

If an animal is absent from a parade without good reason, the exhibitor is liable to forfeit the prize or prizes won by the animal.

E11: MEASUREMENTS AND DECLARATIONS OF HORSES

Horses and ponies entered in classes with a height restriction must be in possession of a current height or final measurement certificate appropriate to their class. This certificate should be issued by a society or scheme approved by the FEI or issued by a National Federation affiliated to the FEI or a certificate issued by a society or scheme approved by such National Federation, and must be presented with their passport at arrivals.

E12: TACK

Exhibitors of ridden ponies are permitted to use double bridles. For other specific tack information please see the appropriate class rules.

E13: SHOETING

For horses and ponies that are shod, only normal shoes that do not cover the frog are permissible. Normal shaped open heeled plastic stick-on shoes are permissible. No bar shoes, pads or gel pads are allowed.

E14: FALL OF RIDER

In the case of a fall of a rider at any time in the competition or practice arenas, the rider must be checked by the paramedic service, prior to any further participation in competition or schooling.

E15: UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Forms of cruel, inhumane, or abusive treatment of horses or ponies, including, but not limited to, the various forms of rapping, are strictly forbidden in all areas of the Showgrounds.

E16: REFUNDS

50% of entry fees will be refunded for all equine classes if cancelled before **Wednesday 26 March 2025**. Withdrawals and refunds are made through the exhibitor's online account and any refund due till be available to claim after the show.