

**GENERAL REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS AND THEIR STOCK ATTENDANTS**

**ENTRIES**

**Exhibitors are requested not to make entries unless they are prepared to comply strictly with these regulations.**

**DATA PROTECTION**

Please see [www.balmoralshow.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.balmoralshow.co.uk/privacy-policy) for the most up to date privacy policy at any time or apply in writing to the Data Collection Manager at the RUAS office.

1. Entries can be made online at [www.balmoralshow.co.uk](http://www.balmoralshow.co.uk).
2. No entry will be accepted unless it has been received on or before the closing date.
3. To be entitled to make entries at members rates, the exhibitor must have paid their subscription in full for the current year before their entry can be processed.
4. Entry forms must be completed online. Society staff are not permitted to complete entries for an intended exhibitor.
5. All particulars required must be fully stated, otherwise the exhibit is liable to be disqualified and excluded from the Show. The exhibit must be as described on the online entry.
6. The exhibitor must ensure that the exhibit is correctly named. Any exhibit entered in the wrong class will be excluded from competition and entry fee forfeit. No alteration whatsoever can be made in an entry after the closing date.
7. In the case of an animal, the name of which has been changed, the exhibitor is required to insert both the present name and the former name on the online entry.
8. All exhibits must be bona fide the property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.
9. Animals may be entered in all the classes for which they are eligible, and an exhibitor may show any number of exhibits in the same class, unless class restrictions state otherwise.
10. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that the animal or exhibitor is eligible for the class entered as no refunds will be made under any circumstance.
11. The Council reserves the right to reject any entry without assigning any reason. In the event of the Council being unable to accept any entry, notice will be given not later than six days after the final closing of the entries, and the entry fees

lodged will be refunded, or in the case of there being insufficient entries in a class, the Council will withdraw the class from competition and return the entry fees.

12. Each exhibitor or agent must be prepared to verify every statement contained on the online entry in any manner the Council may require.
13. Where, in the opinion of the Council, there are either insufficient or too many entries in any one class, the Council may, without reference to the exhibitor or agent, amalgamate or divide such class. Amalgamation may be with any other similar or relevant class, with or without an increase of prize money, but where a class is divided similar prize money will be paid in each division.

## **14. ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **EQUINE ARRIVALS**

Exhibitors cannot arrive outside the hours stated below as they will be refused entry.

Upon arrival equines will be subject to inspection by the RUAS veterinary team. Passports with up-to-date vaccinations and height certificates (where applicable) must be available for inspection.

Any animal without a passport or up-to-date vaccinations will be refused entry.

#### **Tuesday 14 May**

9am - 9pm.

#### **Wednesday 15 May – Friday 17 May**

6am – 8am & 6pm – 9pm

#### **Saturday 18 May**

6am – 8am

Provided exhibitors are not required to participate in any of the parades they may leave once their class has finished, however if an animal leaves the show grounds they will not be admitted again unless they are presented at the vetting area within the allocated times.

## **EXHIBITORS/ASSISTANTS ADMISSION PASSES**

15. Equine exhibitors are entitled to two admission wristbands per horse/pony entered (or a pair of horses/ponies as per class specification) up to a maximum of 10 wrist bands (an additional wristband will be given for foal classes).

Please note that lost wrist bands will not be replaced and will need to be repurchased.

Any person found making unlawful resale copies (or attempt to sell the wristbands) or ticket will be subject to grounds for seizure or cancellation of that ticket without refund or other compensation.

All wristbands must be worn on the wrist and correctly fastened at all times during the event. Wristbands not worn as directed will be retained at the entrance gates. Tampering will invalidate the wristband. Stretching, tearing, taping or cutting the wristband is not permitted. If wristband tampering is evident, the wristband will be voided, and the wearer will be refused entry.

## **DELIVERY AND REMOVAL OF LIVESTOCK PASSES**

16. The Society shall not be responsible in any way for the delivery of any exhibit at the Show, nor for the removal of any exhibit at the close of the Show. A stock travelling pass must be presented for admission and no animal will be received or removed without the production of such pass.

## **ADJUDICATION**

17. No person shall in any way communicate with a judge engaged in adjudication without the sanction of the steward in attendance. Any exhibitor who enters the space in which adjudication is proceeding may be disqualified from receiving a prize. Judges will equally be requested not to converse with spectators or to apply for any further information respecting exhibits under their adjudication or examination, except in regard to age or lameness in the case of horses.
18. If the judge considers that any exhibit does not come within the class specification, they are requested to report the case to the stewards of the class.
19. The judge shall not award a prize for the best exhibit in any class unless there are at least two exhibits. The judge may recommend a prize to be awarded for any exhibit of distinguished merit, although there shall be no competition in the class.
20. The decision of the judge shall in all cases be final, except where misrepresentation or breach of the rules is discovered.
21. The judge is instructed to withhold a prize when sufficient merit does not appear.
22. The judging of any class should not be deemed to be complete until all exhibits have been dismissed by the judge.

## **JUDGES**

23. Should any judge be unable to fulfill his engagement the Council reserves the right to appoint another in his place, or additional judges if required, and to make any alterations necessary to the success of the Show.
24. Should a judge encounter an animal or animals which he has bred, owned, or in which he has had an interest, a request may be made to the chief steward of that section to appoint another suitable person to place such animals. If a chief steward is aware or made aware of such a situation, he should notify the judge.

## **OBJECTIONS**

25. Objections to awards requiring reference to the judges must be lodged at the office of the Society on the day such award is made. Any other objection must be made within seven days after the last day of the Show, and will be considered at the next meeting of the Council. No objection will be considered by the Council unless accompanied by a fee of £50, which will be refunded if the objection is sustained.
26. The Council reserves the right of determining all disputed cases, etc., and the decision of the Council shall be final in all respects.

## **PAYMENT OF PRIZES**

27. Cheques for prizes awarded (except where further qualification of an animal is required) will be forwarded by post to the exhibitor to whom they have been awarded within 90 days after the Show.

## **CUPS AND TROPHIES**

28. All cups and trophies in the possession of the Society are available to be claimed by winners but cannot be collected until after the Council meeting succeeding the Show subject to satisfactory security. All such cups and trophies must be returned to the Society's offices at Balmoral Park at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the next Show, in as good a condition as that in which they were received.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

29. Exhibitors are to understand that, although every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure the safety and welfare of the animal, and the security of the implements or other items exhibited, the Society will not be responsible for loss or damage of any kind which may occur.
30. Any exhibitor attempting to show stock whilst intoxicated will be prohibited from the judging ring. Stewards reserve the right to remove any animal from the ring. Drinking alcohol is strictly prohibited in all livestock areas while the Show is open to the public.

31. Fractious animals will be prohibited from the judging ring and/or parades.
32. Smoking is prohibited in all livestock areas.
33. Livestock exhibitors are reminded that the Show environment can be upsetting for livestock, even those of normally placid temperament. Livestock with unstable or aggressive temperament should not be brought to the Showground.
34. All electrical equipment being used on the Showground must have a current PAT Test Certificate. All electrical equipment will be checked on arrival and if no PAT Test Certificate is presented the appliance will be tested. Equipment which fails the PAT test will be marked accordingly and must be removed from the premises

## **INSURANCE**

35. It is a condition of entry that exhibitors are required to provide their own insurance against fire, theft and other appropriate risk not only with regards to their own property but also against any third-party claims.

Every exhibitor must have Public Liability Insurance (we recommend a minimum of £5 million cover however independent advice should be sought from your Insurance Broker). Exhibitors must also have Employer Liability Insurance.

Each exhibitor shall be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to, occasioned by, or arising from any animal or item exhibited by him whether or not due to the negligence of the Society or any of its servants, agents, sub-contractors or other entrants, exhibitors or invitees and for its description as given in the catalogue.

In no case will the Society be responsible for the safe delivery or dispatch of exhibits.

Exhibitors shall indemnify the Society against all legal or other proceeding in regard thereto.

## **EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY**

36. The Society being a charitable institution which organises the Show in order to promote agriculture and its ancillary industries within Northern Ireland requires all entrants and exhibitors as a fundamental condition of entry to undertake and accept that the Society whether or not due to its own negligence or that of its servants, agents, sub-contractors or other entrants, exhibitors or invitees or otherwise shall not be liable in any way for any claim for compensation or otherwise which may arise out of or be connected with the Show including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the holding, abandonment or alteration of the date of the Show, omission of any entry, the rejection or removal of any animal or other exhibit, the removal or exclusion of any owner, groom, rider or attendant from the Show, or the appointment, decision, act or omission of any judge, officer, official, employee or other person connected with

the Show, nor shall the Society nor any of its judges, officers, officials, employees or other persons be in any way responsible or accountable for anything that may happen (from any cause or circumstance whatever) to the exhibitors or their attendants, or to any exhibit or property brought into the Showground, or for anything else in connection with, or arising out of, or attributable to the Society's Show.

The most careful arrangements are made for the proper accommodation of all exhibits, but any loss or damage sustained, whether arising from accident, fire, wrong delivery, or from any other cause must be borne by the exhibitors, the exhibits being penned and exhibited at the exhibitors' own risk.

### **CONDUCT OF EXHIBITORS AND THEIR ATTENDANTS**

- 37.** Owners of stock should note that any act of disobedience or discourtesy to the officials of the Show on the part of the owner, stockman/groom, rider/exhibitor or attendant will eliminate the owner's exhibit or exhibits from adjudication and the Council reserves the right to remove such from the Show.
- 38.** If an attendant infringes the rules, he/she shall be removed immediately from the charge of the exhibit, and an attendant substituted by the stewards, at a cost of £20 per hour to the exhibitor.

### **VETERINARY REGULATIONS & TREATMENT**

- 39. Diseased Animals.** Exhibitors should not bring any diseased animal into the Show premises, and if under any circumstances this regulation be violated, the exhibitor of the diseased animal will be solely responsible for any claims that may arise for damage or loss to other exhibitors or any other persons, and the Council holds itself free from liability in such cases. Should any animal manifest symptoms of disease during the Show, it must be removed immediately from the premises, on an order to that effect by a senior member of the staff or by a veterinary surgeon appointed by the Society.
- 40. Ringworm** - Exhibitors are advised that animals suffering from ringworm or mange must not be brought to the Society's Showground. Following an inspection by a veterinary surgeon, appointed by the Society, any animals so affected will require to be removed from the premises immediately.
- 41. Veterinary Treatment.** The Society appoints a panel of veterinary surgeons to be on duty during the hours of the Show. Their role is to deal with requests from judges, stewards and other Society officials and to attend to emergencies that may arise. It is a condition of entry that these veterinary surgeons may on their own authority give to any animal such emergency treatment as they may consider appropriate in the event that the owner or his representative cannot immediately be found. Exhibitors will be required to pay any such veterinary surgeon for the full cost of treatment administered whether in an emergency as above or if such treatment is requested by the exhibitor. If an animal is under medication the exhibitor must declare this to the Society in advance of the Show.

**42. Blood Sampling.** The Society condemns the use of prohibited or unlicensed drugs in livestock or bloodstock production and reserves the right to take whatever samples it considers necessary for analysis. Should, subsequently, trace of any prohibited or unlicensed drug be found, penalties will be applied in line with regulation 44 contained in the regulations and instructions to exhibitors. Furthermore, since such positive findings may be in contravention of the Food Safety (NI) Order, 1991 and its subordinate legislation the results will be reported to the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs.

## **PLACARDS OR ADVERTISING MATERIAL**

**43.** Placards or advertising material will be permitted to be placed over animal stalls, or pens but only in reference to animals exhibited and herd represented, and awards achieved at Balmoral Show in 2023. It is not permitted to display rosettes/awards won at previous Shows.

## **PENALTIES**

**44.** In case it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Council that the owner of an animal exhibited, or any person in his employment, or under his control, has been guilty of any violation of the regulations and instructions, has made a false statement in the certificate of entry, or substituted another animal for that described on the entry form; has placed an animal in a stable or stall, by day or night, other than that to which he is entitled, or has been guilty of any practice calculated to deceive or mislead, or to secure an unfair advantage (including the use of prohibited or unlicensed drugs), such exhibitor shall forfeit all prizes, cups, etc., awarded to him at the Show, together with all fees paid by him, and his animal or animals shall be liable to be removed forthwith from the Showgrounds, and such owner shall be liable to be prevented from competing at this or any further Show of the Society.

The Society reserves to itself the power to reject or remove any animal or other exhibit from the Show

## **POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION**

**45.** The Society reserves the right to postpone or abandon the Show but will not be responsible for loss incurred by any intending Exhibitor resulting from such postponement or abandonment

Cancellation of the Show – If the Show is cancelled by the Society as a result of any circumstances outside of the Society's control, the Society will refund in full all entry fees, stalling or stabling fees, caravan site bookings, parking ticket costs and any pre-bought extra tickets. Exhibitors should note that there will be no refund of any Society Membership fees.

Cancellation of any Section - If any section(s) of the Show is or are cancelled by the Society as a result of any circumstances whether within or out of the Society's reasonable control, the Society will (a) in respect of the cancellation

section(s) refund the entry fees and stalling or stabling fees, and (b) unless the exhibitor has also entered for a section which is not cancelled, refund any caravan site bookings, parking ticket costs and pre-bought extra tickets. Exhibitors should note that there will be no refund of any Society Membership Fees.

## **STEWARDS**

**46.** No one shall act as steward in a ring while a class in which he/she is an exhibitor under adjudication.

**47.** The Council delegates full power to the stewards to enforce all the regulations.

## **DOGS**

**48.** No dogs are permitted in the Showground.



## **REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO EQUINE EXHIBITORS**

See also regulations and instructions to exhibitors (general)

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.

All horses entered must be the bona fide property of the person in whose name the entry is made.

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 14 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).
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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.**

**It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the above have been administered and all dates are correct.**

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**

The Society will carry out random dope tests at this year's Balmoral Show.

- a. The selection of animals for testing is to be decided by the chairman of horse committee and the referee judge and they will decide, in advance of the Show, the classes and placing to be tested.

- b. 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**

Stabling is only available on the evening before your class. Stables (3m x 3m) will be provided for all equine classes with the exception of Clydesdale in hand, Ridden Clydesdales, Hackneys, Private Driving, Farm Cart/Agricultural horses, Trade Turnouts Light and Heavy, Donkeys and Clifden High Performance Qualifier Class. If a stable is required for an exhibit in the sections listed, it must be booked with their entry at a cost of £30. If you require additional stabling for extra nights in any other classes, please book these with your entry at a cost of £30 per additional night. Stables will include some shavings 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 on page ??)

Lunging in the Horse Rings practice arena is only permitted on: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May from 9am – 10.30pm and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Arena 2 on Wednesday 15 May at the time stated in the programme, and in addition to the champion and reserve champion first, second and third prizewinners in each class will be required to participate.

A parade of prizewinning horses will take place in the Main Arena on Thursday 16 May at the time stated in the programme. Horses required to parade are; Champions, Reserve Champions and 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners in these classes; 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 17 May in Arena 2 at the time stated in the programme with the champion, reserve champion and first three placed exhibits in each class 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: SHOEING**

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 horse and pony classes who pay a stabling fee if cancelled before **Thursday 28 March 2024**.