General Regulations and Instructions for Livestock & Equine Exhibitors and their Stock Attendants/Grooms/Riders

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

1. ENTRIES

a) Entries made online at **www.balmoralshow.co.uk**. Society staff are not permitted to complete entries on behalf of an intended exhibitor.
b) No entry will be accepted unless it has been received on or before the closing date.
c) To be entitled to make entries at members rates, the exhibitor must have paid their subscription in full for the current year before completing their entry.
d) 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.
e) 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.
f) 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.
g) All exhibits must be bona fide property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.
h) 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.
i) 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.
j) 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 that 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.
k) Each exhibitor or agent must be prepared to verify every statement contained on the online entry in any manner the Council may require.
l) 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.

2. WRISTBANDS

Two 4 day wristbands will be issued for each horse or pony entered. Young Handler class will receive a daily wristband for the day their class is being judged.

Additional exhibitor wristbands, 4 day and daily, can be purchased via the Online Exhibitor Portal. The wristband system operates as follows: Each exhibitor will receive an e-ticket which must be redeemed at the designated areas upon arrival at the Showgrounds in exchange for a wristband.

An exhibitor will not be permitted to exchange e-tickets or collect a wristband on behalf of another individual.
E-tickets are not admission tickets. Removal of or tampering with wristbands will result in them being
'void' and invalid for use.

3. ADJUDICATION

a) 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 regarding exhibits under their adjudication or examination, except in regard to age or lameness in the case of horses.
b) 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.
c) 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.
d) The decision of the judge shall in all cases be final, except where misrepresentation or breach of the rules is discovered.
e) The judge is instructed to withhold a prize when sufficient merit does not appear.
f) The judging of any class should not be deemed to be complete until all exhibits have been dismissed by the judge.
g) Should any judge be unable to fulfil 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.
h) 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.

4. OBJECTIONS

a) 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.
b) The Council reserves the right to determine all disputed cases, etc., and the decision of the Council shall be final in all respects.

5. PAYMENT OF PRIZES & REFUNDS (where applicable)

a) Prize money and refunds will only be made payable to the account holder from which the entry was made.
Prize money and refunds will be paid via transfer using the Trolley secure cloud-based payment platform only.
b) Except where further qualifications of an animal is required, prizes & refunds will be available to

claim before the end of August in the current year. Any monies not claimed within one year from the last day of the show shall be forfeited.

6. CUPS & TROPHIES

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.

7. HEALTH & SAFETY

a) 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.
b) Drinking alcohol is strictly prohibited in all livestock areas while the Show is open to the public.
c) Any exhibitor attempting to show stock whilst intoxicated will be prohibited from the judging ring.
d) Stewards reserve the right to remove any animal from the ring.
e) 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.
f) Fractious animals will be prohibited from judging rings and/or parades.
g) Smoking is prohibited in all livestock areas.
h) 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.

8 INSURANCE

It is a condition of entry that exhibitors are required to provide their own insurance against fire, theft and other appropriate risks 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 proceedings in regard thereto.

9. EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY

a) 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.
b) 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.

10. CONDUCT OF EXHIBITORS & THEIR ATTENDANTS

a) 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.
b) 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.

11. VETERINARY REGULATIONS & TREATMENT

a) **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.
b) **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.
c) **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.

d) **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, traces of any prohibited or unlicensed drug be found, penalties will be applied in line with regulation 13 contained in the regulations and instructions to exhibitors.

12. PLACARDS OR ADVERTISING MATERIAL

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 2026.

It is not permitted to display rosettes/awards won at previous Shows.

13. PENALTIES

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.

14. POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION

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 or any Section – 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.

15. STEWARDS

No one shall act as steward in a ring during a class in which he/she is an exhibitor under adjudication

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

15. DOGS

No dogs are permitted anywhere in the showgrounds including car parks.

16. DATA PROTECTION

The most up-to-date Privacy Policy is available at **https://balmoralshow.co.uk/privacy**

Regulations Specific to Equine Exhibitors

All exhibitors must ensure they are familiar with the procedures for the movement of equine animals, as detailed on the DAERA website under Show Guidance for exhibitors.

E1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

a) Equines may only be entered in one section, either horse, pony or donkey.
b) All equines must be entered under the owner's name as listed in their passport.
c) The ages of all equines competing to be calculated from 1st January. Yearlings must provide date of birth on entry form.
d) Passport numbers must be supplied with the entry, otherwise entry will be null and void.
e) Passports must accompany all equines and be available for inspection. Equines without passports will not be permitted entry to the showgrounds.
f) No exhibitor may enter and show a horse, pony or donkey under a Judge whom they know or should have known to have: bred, sold, produced, or received financial gain from that horse. (Stud fees and keep for mares at stud are exempt from financial gain.) Or, any owner or their immediate family taking advice on:
the purchase, schooling, exhibiting, or having at livery any horse from someone during the current or previous year.
Please note should the above conflict of interest arise it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to withdraw from the class.

E2. ARRIVAL TIMES & DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS

a) 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.
b) Any animal without a passport or up-to-date vaccinations will be refused entry.
c) Exhibitors must arrive within the hours listed below. Arrival outside these times will result in refusal of entry.

Tuesday 12 May	9.00am–9.00pm
Wednesday 13–Friday 15 May	6.00am–8.00am
	6.00pm–9.30pm
Saturday 16 May	6.00am–8.00am

d) 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.

E3. ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS

a) 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.
b) 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.

E4. 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 on the bridle or head collar 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.

E5. 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.

E6: HEALTH DECLARATION & VACCINATIONS

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;

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• 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 bio-security 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 substances.
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) Stabling is not included within your entry fee and **must** be booked separately through the Online Exhibitor Portal. Stables booked before close of entries are charged at £35 per night and stables booked after entries close will be charged at £50 per night. Exhibitors in classes 1–38, 52 – 54 and 60–84, are not permitted to work from their horse box or lorries and **must** book at stable.
Please note that stables booked will not be refunded after entries close.
All stables must be vacated by 5.30pm (providing your class has finished). Stables that are not vacated will be charged an additional night.
When booking your stable, please select the day your class is on. This allows you to arrive either the evening before your class (from 6:00pm to 9:30pm) or on the morning of your class (from 6:00am to 8:00am). If booking a Wednesday stable, arrival is available between 9.00am & 9.00pm on Tuesday.
No equine may stable in a stable other than that allocated to it by Society officials. **STABLE SWAPPING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Any owner/exhibitor found in breach of this rule will be removed from the showgrounds with immediate effect and forfeit any entry fees paid, and prize money won.
b) Stables will include some shavings which have been 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.
c) 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: PARKING

Limited parking is available on-site and must be pre-booked via the online portal. Parking is available for cars, horse boxes, and lorries, with daily or weekly passes available.
Daily passes allow access to the car park from 6.00pm on the evening prior to the booked day and weekly passes allow access from 9.00am on Tuesday of Show week.
Exhibitors may stay on-site if they have purchased a **weekly residential parking pass** in either the **Pink Residential Lorry Park** or the **Brown Residential Area**. These passes must be pre-purchased, are limited in number, and **only one residential pass is permitted per exhibitor**.

E10: EXERCISING

Ridden horses and led horses will be allowed to exercise in the warm up areas providing they have their catalogue number visible. Exercising in the judging rings or main arena is strictly prohibited. All arenas and the lunging pen will be closed between **10.30pm & 5.00am (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 10 of the General Rules and Regulations)

Lunging in the Horse Rings practice arena is only permitted on: Tuesday 12th May from 9.00am–10.30pm and Wednesday 13th May from 5.00am–12 noon. 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.

E11: PARADES

A parade of prizewinning young stock horses will take place in P&O Arena on Wednesday 13 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 14 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.

E12: HEIGHT CERTIFICATES

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.

E13: TACK

For other specific tack information please see the appropriate class rules.

E14: 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.

E15: 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.

E16: 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.

E17: REFUNDS
50% of entry fees will be refunded for all equine classes if cancelled before **5.00pm** on **Wednesday 25 March 2026**. Withdrawals and refunds are made through the exhibitor's online account and any refund due will be available to claim after the show. No refunds will be issued after this date.

HORSE SPORT IRELAND AND DAFM ADDITIONAL PRIZE FUND RULES:

To be eligible for the additional prize money supplied by the Breeding Grant Initiative, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine under National Breeding Services, and delivered by Horse Sport Ireland, exhibitors must meet the following criteria:
• All horses entering classes/in receipt of funds must be studbook registered with a specific breed documented within their studbook passport.
• Horses must be registered in the correct ownership, with the PIO, to be in receipt of prize funds.
• All entrants must ensure all information provided is accurate and up to date.
• Breeder's prizes will only be paid to breeders residing on the Island of Ireland.
• Prize winners must submit full payment details via the QR code on the winner's letter within 7 days of the competition or they will not receive prize money.
• Equine welfare is paramount for all activities including equines; equines should not have their whiskers trimmed or be inappropriately produced for or handled during any of the events. Shows must indicate the welfare/inspection and other relevant provisions they have in place.
• Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to amend and update these terms and conditions at any time.
• HSI are not responsible for prize moneys due to ineligibility.