



EQUESTRIAN
RULES
for
RAS Affiliated Shows/Events
Competitors
Exhibitors
and
Judges



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TAB 6.

Measuring (M)

Royal Agricultural Society Measuring Rules

These rules are the Measuring Rules of the Royal Agricultural Society and may only be revised by resolution of the Horse Stewards Council of the Society.

The rules are issued in conjunction with Equestrian Sports NZ, the NZ Pony Clubs Association, and all affiliated Equestrian Breed Societies and in consultation with the NZ Veterinary Association.

Definition of Measuring Terms;

Approved Measuring Stand – RAS organizations and Pony Clubs that have measuring stands and have been approved by the RAS Executive to act as an agent for the Society for measuring purposes.

Approved Witness – An RAS Measuring Steward or RAS Head Office personnel or the administrative staff of the host grounds of the measuring stand or a committee member of an RAS affiliated organisation, or a person authorised by the host grounds of the measuring stand for the specific purpose of witnessing measures. The host grounds of the measuring stand would need to authorise a person via proper meeting procedure – e.g. moved, seconded, carried and minuted. A witness cannot be the owner/lessee of the horse/pony being presented for measuring.

Council – Horse Stewards Council of the RAS being appointed delegates from A&P Associations and Equine Breed/Kindred Societies affiliated to the RAS.

District Council – Regional Horse Stewards Council representing A & P Associations and Equestrian Breed/Kindred Societies in a District, with delegates appointed to Council.

HS Council Executive – Horse Steward's Council Executive of the RAS: the Executive Member with the Equestrian Portfolio, the Horse Stewards Council Chair and the National Clean Sport, Judges and Measuring Convenors, who will act as an advisory body to the RAS Executive.

HS Executive Appeal Committee - Executive Member with the Equestrian Portfolio, the Horse Stewards Council Chair and the National Measuring Convenor.

Measuring Stewards – Measurers nominated by Districts and approved by the RAS Executive to operate the Metcalf measuring machines. Measuring Stewards are responsible to the RAS Executive for the implementation of the measuring rules and the issuing and completion of RAS Certificates.

RAS – Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand

RAS Executive – President, Vice President and four elected members as per the RAS Constitution.

RAS Certificates – RAS issued Annual or Life Height Certificate or Horse/Pony Identification Form (issued from 1 August 2011)

RAS Inspectors – Measuring Stewards nominated by Districts and approved by RAS Executive, who are responsible for the approval of the installation of Metcalf Measuring Machines.

Temporary Measuring Certificate – see Appendix to measuring rules.

M1 General Measuring Rules

- a. Council has established rules for the issuing of RAS Certificates and in order to retain the confidence and support of owners, A&P Associations and affiliated Societies throughout NZ, has laid down these measuring rules.

- b. Equipment must comply with the standards as described in the rules and be thoroughly checked and in good working order. Accuracy must be certified with the official checking stick provided with the machine.
- c. All measuring shall be on smooth, level concrete and swept clean.
- d. The spirit level must be checked for accuracy before each operation
- e. Handling – The horse or pony to be measured shall be handled quietly and allowed a reasonable time to settle down.
- f. Stance –The horse or pony shall stand squarely on all four legs, head in its aural, relaxed position. The poll shall not be lower than the highest part of the wither.
- g. The measurement shall be taken at the highest point of the wither.
- h. If the line on the moveable part of the measuring machine is even slightly above the line on the set scale, the reading shall be taken to the nearest 0.5cm above
- i. If, in the opinion of the Measuring Steward, the horse or pony has been improperly prepared for measuring it shall not be measured.
- j. Annual and Life Measures issued strictly in accordance with RAS Measuring Rules for Horses/Ponies, shall be accepted by all A&P Associations, Pony Clubs, Equestrian Sports NZ and any other affiliated organizations.
- k. Annual or Life Measures which fail to comply with RAS Measuring Rules for Horses/Ponies are invalid.
- l. An RAS Certificate must be issued for every measure that takes place, irrespective of the owner/lessee accepting the measure or not.
- m. Once a horse or pony has been measured at any Approved Measuring Stand within any District and that measurement is endorsed on the RAS Certificate, that horse or pony may not be measured again during the validity of the RAS Certificate unless the Appeal process is followed – refer to Rule M11.
- n. Any person who presents a horse or pony for measuring which is found to have had administered to it or ingested by it, any forbidden substance, commits a breach of these rules. The person may be charged under the Clean Sport Rules Regulations and By-laws of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand.
- o. Where a horse is considered a danger in the measuring stand, and a previous height is known, the National Measuring Convenor may approve the issue of an RAS Certificate on the following grounds:
 - a. danger of injury to the handler
 - b. danger of injury to the measuring stewards
 - c. danger of injury to the horse
 - d. danger of damage to the measuring equipment, provided that all other requirements are met.
- p. Horses/Ponies (excluding miniatures) 3 years and over are required to be presented for measuring in a bridle and shall have a bit in their mouth. The reins or the lead shall be connected to the bit.
- q. Horses/ponies are not to be presented for measuring wearing rugs, hoods etc. Any leg wraps or boots shall be removed if requested by the measuring steward.
- r. The following Rules have been brought through from Classes, Definition and Eligibility section of the Rulebook**

CDE 1. RAS CERTIFICATE & HORSE/PONY CLASSIFICATION

- a) Where classes are defined by height, competitors/exhibitors must carry a current RAS Certificate for their horse/pony at all RAS affiliated Shows/Events, and must produce it

upon request to any authorised Show/Event personnel. Any competitor unable to

produce such a certificate means that the exhibit is ineligible to compete, and will forfeit any awards.

- b) Height of horse/pony shall be the deciding factor when entering in classes defined by height at affiliated shows/events.
- c) The classification (section nominated) of a horse or pony must be made at the time of its first adult measure (from 1/8/15) or from the 1 August 2018 at the time the horse/pony is first registered prior to its first measure (whichever occurred first) however, a change to this classification (section nominated) (with the exceptions listed in rule CDE 1 d) may be made by making application to RAS Head Office (download the application from the website www.ras.org.nz). Any subsequent changes will require a full submission with the final decision on granting further changes resting with the RAS Executive.
- d) Regardless of Rule CDE 1 c), equestrian title winners, of open conformation titles, at Royal A&P Shows/Events, Showing Championships endorsed by the RAS or HOY are not entitled to change classification (section) after winning a title class at any of these events and must stay within their nominated classification (section) with the exception if the horse/pony is under eight (8) years of age, a change of classification may be made upon application to, and approval of, the RAS Executive

M2 Fees for Measuring, Life & Replacement Certificates

- a) The following charges, inclusive of GST, shall apply nationwide for all advertised or scheduled measuring days. In the case of a special or requested measure outside of these times, an additional fee may be charged by the stand.
First measure (either annual or young stock) with issue of certificate \$31.00
Annual re-measure \$21.00
Young Stock re-measure \$11.00
Life Certificate \$76.00
The above fees will be split with 70% remaining with the measuring stand and 30% to go to the RAS Head Office.
- b) Replacement Certificates \$76.00
All replacement certificates (lost certificates, change of horse/pony name etc.) must be issued from the RAS Head Office, with the exception of M11 g). The person seeking the replacement certificate must apply to RAS Head Office for their replacement certificate and have received that certificate before taking the animal to the measuring stand for ongoing measures. Any replacement certificates issued direct from the measuring stand will be invalid. Cost for a replacement certificate may be reduced at the discretion of the RAS Head Office.
- c) Measuring fees will be increased each year and the CPI level will be used as a guide for the increase.

M3 Measuring Machines

- a) The Metcalf Measuring Machine, because of its accuracy and simplicity of operation, is the official measuring machine of the Royal Agricultural Society. A laser beam measuring system, as an alternative official method of measuring Horses and Ponies may be used in conjunction with existing calibrated Metcalf Measuring Machines.

- b) All Metcalf Measuring Machines must be permanently installed on smooth level concrete, braced against a substantial wall and must be approved by a RAS Inspector.
- c) Following approval and calibration, RAS Measuring Stewards in accordance with these rules may issue RAS Certificates.
- d) A checking stick, complying with the NZ Standard specifications is supplied with each machine.
- e) Organizations, Societies or Clubs contemplating the permanent installation of a fixed Metcalf Measuring Machine must obtain the approval of the RAS Executive.
- f) Information on the purchase and installation of a Metcalf Measuring Machine must be obtained from the RAS Head Office or National Measuring Convenor.
- g) An official body must calibrate Metcalf Measuring Machines no less than two yearly, and the rules in full of measuring and the calibration certificate must be posted at all certified RAS Metcalf Measuring Stands

M4 RAS Inspectors

- a) A list of the RAS Inspectors will be maintained by RAS Head Office.
- b) RAS Executive may rescind the appointment of RAS Inspectors at any time.

M5 RAS Measuring Stewards

- a) Council shall appoint a National Convenor, with the approval of the RAS Executive. The National Measuring Convenor shall oversee the training of all Measuring Stewards of the Society.
- b) A list of Measuring Stewards will be maintained by their RAS District Secretary and a full list held by RAS Head Office.
- c) RAS Measuring Stewards must be competent with horses and be completely impartial in the performance of their duties.
- d) RAS Executive may rescind the appointment of RAS Measuring Stewards at any time.
- e) All RAS Measuring Stewards will carry an Official Identification Card or badge, which must be displayed, when the Steward is conducting official duties.
- f) Each measurement at whatever height **MUST** be recorded on the day and counter signed by a witness.
- g) All Listed RAS Measuring Stewards of Official RAS Measuring Stands must attend a Measuring Seminar at least once in every two-years beginning 1st August 2010. Failure to attend Seminars (unless a reasonable explanation is received by the National Measuring Convenor) will mean the Steward is removed from the current list.

M6 Certificate Forms

- a) RAS Head Office shall hold supplies of RAS Certificates.
- b) RAS Certificates shall be issued only to RAS Measuring Stands and shall only be used in conjunction with calibrated Metcalf Measuring Machines.

M7 Life Measure

- a) A RAS Life Measure may be issued to horses/ponies eight years old and over, or upon attaining a height of 168 cm (except where otherwise described in these rules) provided they have been suitably branded and/or micro-chipped. (See M10 b) and M10 c))
- b) Measuring is to be carried out by a RAS Measuring Steward in the presence of another RAS Measuring Steward, both of whom shall sign the RAS Certificate.

- c) Applicants must produce a completed RAS Life Measure Form, completed by a practicing Veterinarian.

- d) Applicants requiring a RAS Life Measure must have the Horses/Ponies shoes removed and the hooves trimmed.
- e) The top copy of the completed Life Measure Form to be forwarded to RAS Head Office and the first carbon copy of the Life Measure Form shall be forwarded for registration to the District Secretary, immediately following issue. The second carbon copy to be filed at the Approved Measuring Stand.

M8 Annual Measures

- a) Measuring days for Annual Measures will be organized by Approved Measuring Stands, which as in all cases to do with measuring horses and ponies, has been granted RAS permission to act as agents for the Society and which have calibrated measuring machines available.
- b) All measuring stands acting as agents for the RAS must hold a minimum of two advertised or scheduled measuring days for annual measures between the 1 August and 31 December and a minimum of one advertised or scheduled measuring day after 1 January. The dates of the measuring days must be appropriate to the show/event dates within the District the stand is within.
- c) The age of Horses/Ponies is calculated from August 1.
- d) The Annual Measure is from 1 August until 31 July the following year. Note: All Horses and Ponies measured within that period must renew their RAS Certificate on August 1st or thereafter.
- e) These measures will be issued by a RAS Measuring Steward and must be signed by an approved witness (refer to definitions for who can act as an approved witness).
- f) Annual Measures must record the Horses/Ponies name, sex, year born, colour, any distinguishing markings, brand/microchip/ID/breed (if any), section nominated, date of measure, signatures of measurer and witness, and owners and lessee's (if applicable) full contact details.
- g) If shoes are fitted, 0.5cm allowance only shall be made. No allowance shall be made for thin or worn racing plates or shoes.
- h) Horses/Ponies under three years of age are deemed Youngstock and are not eligible for Annual Measures.

M9 Youngstock Measures

Youngstock measures are specifically designed for youngstock ponies and miniature horses, as they are entered in classes relating to their height at maturity. The Pony Breeders Society of NZ, the NZ Riding Pony Society and the NZ Miniature Horse Association have issued the RAS with a height for age guide.

It is deemed that youngstock that will mature to be a horse can mature to any height, therefore height as a yearling and two year old are irrelevant, unless a breed society requests height for age in their schedules.

- a) Youngstock are granted specific exemptions to the rules. Youngstock Measures issued to a pony or Miniature horse under the age of three years after August 1st will be valid until January 31st of the following year.
- b) Measures issued or endorsed after January 1st will be valid until the end of the current Show season i.e. July 31st.
- c) Youngstock Measures must be issued and signed by an RAS Measuring Steward and approved witness and carried out on an approved Metcalf Measuring Machine.

- d) All measuring stands must hold a minimum of one advertised or scheduled measuring day after January 1st and before the end of the current show season. This day can be in conjunction with an annual measuring day. The timing of the

measuring day to be applicable to the show/event dates within the District the measuring stand is within.

M10 Branding/Micro Chips

- a) Life Measurement endorsement shall only be allowed if a horse or pony can be suitably identified. It is a requirement under these rules that proper identification includes the provision of a brand, or microchip. It is a further requirement that whatever the form of identification accepted, it must be clear and readable.
- b) Branding may be on the shoulder, neck, under the saddle area or on the thigh
- c) Freeze or fire branding is equally acceptable, as is a microchip placed in the crest halfway between the poll and the wither on the near side.
- d) Identification by microchip will only be accepted for a Life or Annual Measure if a scanner is produced or available to read the microchip at the time of measure.

M11 Measuring Appeals

- a) Any dispute relating to these measuring rules or the issue of a RAS Certificate will be subject to an appeal to the HSC Executive Appeal Committee.
- b) Such appeal must be lodged in writing with RAS Head Office and shall state the full grounds of the appeal.
- c) The appeal shall be heard by the HSC Executive Appeal Committee or a minimum of three members of Council appointed by the Chairman of the HSC Executive for that purpose. They shall be known as the Hearing Committee.
- d) As soon as practical on the receipt of an appeal, the RAS Head Office shall;
 - 1) Notify the appellant and any other person known to be interested in the appeal of the time and place for the hearing of the appeal
 - 2) Notify the appellant that he/she may be liable for all expenses incurred in connection with the appeal and that a deposit of \$500 is required to be paid before the date of the hearing of the appeal.
- e) If the appeal is upheld the deposit may be refunded.
- f) The appellant and such interested persons as are notified by the RAS Head Office and any other persons may give evidence verbally and in writing for consideration of the Hearing Committee.
- g) If in the opinion of the Hearing Committee, a re-measure should take place, notwithstanding Rule M1 m) and M11 i) it will be conducted either at the Stand where the measure in question was issued, or at such other stand as the Hearing Committee shall nominate. The measure shall be conducted by current listed measurers appointed by the Hearing Committee. If the re-measure attains the same height as the original RAS Certificate, whether it be an Annual or a Life, then that RAS Certificate needs only to be ratified by the Appeal Measurers. If it does not attain the same height then a NEW RAS Certificate, whether it be an Annual or a Life measure, must be issued and signed by both parties, measurers and witness, and the invalid RAS Certificate be CANCELLED. If the NEW RAS Certificate is a Life, the Vet certificate/Life Measure Form relating to the queried RAS Certificate, must also be signed by both parties noting the change in height, and a copy forwarded to the District Secretary and RAS Head Office as per rule M7 e). **This measure shall be final and binding. No further action shall be entered into.**
- h) The Hearing Committee shall submit a written report of the findings to the RAS Executive.

- i) Once a horse or pony has been measured at any Approved Measuring Stand within any District and that measurement is endorsed on the RAS Certificate, that horse or pony may not be measured again during the validity of the RAS Certificate, even in another area except -
 - i. When an owner considers a horse or pony has grown out of the height class and requests a re-measure.
 - ii. When an owner is a holder of a valid and current annual measure and requests a life measure this may be issued subject to all rules and fees being complied with.Any re-measure will be conducted under the appeal rules.

M12 Care of RAS Certificates

- a) RAS Certificates should at all times be kept in a safe place and carried by owners/lessees/riders/handlers in all competitions, where an RAS Certificate is required.
- b) A name change for a horse or pony will require a replacement RAS Certificate. Application for this is to be made through RAS Head Office. A fee may apply.
- c) If a date, or the height or name of horse/pony is found to have been altered on an RAS Certificate that RAS Certificate will become invalid. Any application for a replacement certificate must be made to RAS Head Office.
- d) If an Owner/lessee/rider/handler loses his/her horse/pony's RAS Certificate, he/she should immediately contact RAS Head Office and on receipt of a signed declaration, RAS Head Office, in consultation with the RAS National Measuring Convenor, may issue a replacement RAS Certificate.

M13 Brands

Stud or Vet Brands may be used.

M14 Miniature Horses

Miniature Horses are measured according to the rules of the RAS:

- a) Royal Agricultural Society measurement is in centimetres and is taken at the last true hair of the mane of Miniature Horses.
- b) At RAS affiliated Shows/Events only RAS Certificates issued by approved RAS Measuring Stewards and on an official forms will be recognized.
- c) All young stock must be presented with the area around the last hair of the mane clipped to ensure that the last true hair is readily identifiable. Notwithstanding the pre-measurement clipping, the RAS Measuring Steward shall be the sole arbiter of which hair in fact is to be the last in the mane.

Appendix TAB A.

**Appendix to
Measuring Rules
-Temporary
Measuring
Certificate**

Royal Agricultural Society Temporary Measuring Certificates

Appendix To Measuring Rules

Temporary measuring certificates are for specific circumstances only and under strict guidelines. The underlying principle behind a temporary measuring certificate is for those new and/or local riders that only go to their local show/s. There is no other reason for a temporary measuring certificate to be issued as this undermines the RAS measuring system. They (temporary measuring certificates) do not form part of the General Measuring Rules (other than be defined) as they are the "exception to the rule" and all matters pertaining to the issue and conduct of a temporary measuring certificates are contained within this appendix.

- a) Shows wishing to utilise the temporary measuring certificate system must make application to the RAS Head Office (RHO) annually.
- b) On approval from RHO, a RAS temporary measuring certificate pad will be issued at the going rate.
- c) The cost of a temporary measuring certificate nationwide, inclusive of GST, is \$11.00. 70% of this amount will be retained by the show, 30% will be sent to the RHO.
- d) A temporary measuring certificate is only current for the period of one affiliated show/event at a time.
- e) A maximum of two temporary measuring certificates in one show season may be obtained.
- f) The show/event issuing the temporary measuring certificate can only do the measures within the timeframe of the show/event. i.e. Measuring days for temporary certificates cannot be held prior to the show/event.
- g) Competitors/exhibitors obtaining temporary measuring certificates must live in the defined Show District boundary.
- h) Any personnel undertaking measuring for temporary measuring certificates must register and be approved by RHO.
- i) Shows with measuring stands at their showgrounds cannot issue temporary measuring certificates, they must issue an ID/ height certificate from their Metcalf Measuring Machine.
- j) Any Wins are to be recorded on the temporary measuring certificate and must be transferred if an ID height certificate is issued at any time.
- k) Any wins recorded on a temporary measuring certificate are not valid for Royal Event or Royal Show ribbon or medal.
- l) Any wins recorded on a temporary measuring certificate cannot be used as a qualifier for HOY or any other show that runs a similar system. This includes not being able to use the presence of the horse, pony or rider at a show/event as a qualifier for HOY.
- m) The Yellow Carbon Copy of temporary measuring certificate to be sent to RHO immediately following the show or event together with payment.
- n) Measures to be undertaken on a clean, flat concrete surface or similar.
- o) Measuring stick must have an installed levelling bubble.

p) Handling – The horse or pony to be measured shall be handled quietly and allowed a reasonable time to settle.

- q) Stance – The horse or pony shall stand squarely on all four legs, head in its aural relaxed position. The poll shall not be lower than the highest point of the wither.
- r) The measurement shall be taken at the highest part of the wither.
- s) Horse/ponies 3 years and over are required to be presented for measuring in a bridle and shall have a bit in their mouth. The reins or the lead shall be connected to the bit.
- t) Horses/ponies are not to be presented for measuring wearing rugs, hoods etc. Any leg wraps or boots shall be removed if requested by the person measuring.
- u) If shoes are fitted, 0.5cm allowance only shall be made. No allowance shall be made for thin or worn racing plates or shoes.
- v) Miniatures and young stock are excluded from obtaining a temporary measuring certificate.
- w) Any person who presents a horse or pony for a temporary measuring certificate which is found to have had administered to it or ingested by it, any forbidden substance, commits a breach of the RAS Clean Sport rules. The person may be charged under the Forbidden Substance Rules, Regulations & By-laws of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand.
- x) No appeals on temporary measuring certificates will be allowed.
- y) The RAS Executive reserves the right to terminate this appendix to the rules, if the competitors and/or shows do not comply with the rules.

