

Royal Agricultural Society

RAS Remit Nine - Equestrian – Age of Riders

Name of Proposing Organisation/Association/District:
Nelson A&P Association
Contact details
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Remit
To enable riders of any age to ride ponies in any novice or open showing or working hunter & hunter jumping classes. Not including lead rein or first ridden.
Current Rules
Rule for this Remit. CDE 11. AGE OF RIDERS & HANDLERS f) Open pony exhibits must be ridden by riders under seventeen (17) years of age. Other subsequent rules which would need rewording when the above change is made. d) Novice pony exhibits (except Novice Pony Stallions) may be ridden by a rider of any age, in novice pony classes only. g) Open pony stallions must be ridden by a rider fourteen (14), or fifteen (15), or sixteen (16) years of age, led handlers must be fourteen (14) years and over.
Change
f) Open pony exhibits may be ridden by a rider of any age. d) Novice pony exhibits may be ridden by a rider of any age. g) Open pony stallions must be ridden by a rider at least fourteen years of age.
Rationale
This is primarily to encourage participation and increase numbers competing in pony classes. Adults riding ponies is popular in other disciplines which allow it which shows there is a demand. It would also mean riders over 17 years aiming their rising star ponies at HOY would do more shows as they wouldn't need to keep their ponies' novice for the whole season. While not being directly led by the actions of other countries, allowing adults

to ride open ponies in the show ring has proven to be a hugely successful concept where it is permitted.

Contra

There may be a perceived concern about adult riders being too big on a pony however this situation can just as easily occur with a child and many adults are no larger than children. In any case, the rider needs to be the correct size for the pony to in order to present a pleasing overall picture and so the pony can move to the best of its ability.

Some people may be concerned about children competing against adults. It has been proven where this already happens that it is not necessarily an advantage having older riders riding ponies. Showing judging is predominantly conformation based so the age of the rider has no bearing on this.