

## With Our Compliments...



Dear Member

Please find enclosed the updates to your Equestrian Rulebook, as a result of the Remits that were voted in by members in June 2025.

Please ensure that you update your Rulebook and advise your Equestrian Section Convenor of the updates...

### Index

- Remove pages 2/3 **replace with the enclosed new pages 2/3**

### Equestrian Rules – ER

- Remove pages 4/5 and 6/7 **replace with the enclosed new pages 4/5 and 6/7.**

### Classes, Definition and Eligibility – CDE

- Remove pages 2/3 and 4/5 and **replace with the enclosed new pages 2/3 & 4/5**

### General Rules - GR

- Remove page 4 and **replace with enclosed new page 4.**

**NOTE: GR 8. Fall of Rider:** If a rider has a fall or suspected head injury, at any time at a RAS affiliated Show/Event in the: competition ring/arena, practice / warmup / collecting ring / arena; or elsewhere within the grounds of where the show/event is being convened, the rider must be removed from the activity and checked by the show/event's nominated First Aid service/personnel and be given the 'all-clear' before the rider is permitted to re-mount and continue riding at the show/event.

### Entries, Entry Forms, Schedules, Levies - EEFSL

- Remove page 4/5 and **replace with enclosed new page 4/5**

### Clean Sport - CS

- Remove page 4/5 and **replace with enclosed new page 4/5.**

### Judges - J

- Remove page 4 and **replace with enclosed new page 4.**

### Measuring – M

- Remove pages 2/3, 4/5 and 6/7 and **replace with new pages 2/3, 4/5 and 6/7.**

Thank you for all your time and support as a Member – wishing you all the best for the 2025.2026 show season.

Kind Regards, RAS Head Office

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**b) Class**

This is a competition advertised on an organisation / agricultural society's programme or schedule for the exhibition of horse/pony and / or rider, led and/or ridden or driven. This may be an individual event or a team event or any other combination.

**c) Classification (Section) Nominated**

Choice made by owner at the time of the horse/pony's first adult measure as to which classification they wish to show in. The classifications are as follows: Horse – Park Hack, Hack, Saddle Hunter, Riding Horse; Pony – Show Pony or Saddle Hunter Pony.

**d) Competitor/Exhibitor**

The person or persons owning / leasing / in partnership / person responsible (PR) / representative of the said owner, or riding / leading / driving the exhibit in competition, at an official or non-official event, run specifically for the presentation of horses/ponies.

**e) Constitution**

Constitution of the Royal A&P Society New Zealand.

**f) Employer**

A person employing/hiring another in a business.

**g) Exhibit**

- i. The combination of horse/pony and competitor/exhibitor. The competitor/exhibitor may be the owner, lessee/partner, person responsible (PR), or the representative of the said owner. Both horse/pony and competitor/exhibitor must be eligible to compete in the particular class.
- ii. The word exhibit refers to all - led or ridden ponies/horses, or representatives of breeds/kindred bodies affiliated to the RAS or breeds/sections (e.g., Stock & Station, Western etc.) not affiliated to the Royal Agricultural Society but catered for by individual Shows/Events.

**h) Family**

Brother, sister, child, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, parents, grandparents, grandchildren (including in-law, step, half, and defacto, partner and civil relationships).

**i) Judges**

National Judge's Convenor, Six (6) District Judge Convenors, Tutor Judges, Listed Judges (Grades - International, 1, 2 & 3.)

**j) Knowingly**

Acquainted/aware of the truth. Informed of the facts. Where this situation exists it shall be presumed that any breach is intentional.

k) **Lease/Partnership**

- i. Where the possession of a horse/pony, but not the ownership is transferred to another person. Only leases/partnerships registered with the RAS are recognised or, in the case of breed classes, leases/partnerships are registered with the affiliated Breed Society and copied to the RAS.
- ii. For any horse/pony that is not under the control of the owner, and where there is no formal registered lease/partnership lodged with the RAS, any issues arising in relation to that horse/pony becomes the responsibility of the competitor/exhibitor, handler, driver, or person resident of New Zealand or otherwise, in charge of the horse/pony that is exhibited at the Show/Event.

l) **Member**

A person admitted to membership of the Royal A&P Society New Zealand, as defined under the Constitution.

- m) **Novice** - A Novice exhibit or rider is one that has yet to win six (6) classes in any division within the competitions provided at any A & P Show/Event.

n) **Owner**

Person(s) named as the owner on the RAS certificates, and/or registration papers issued by an affiliated Breed Society.

o) **Person Responsible**

Means any exhibitor, owner, lessee/lessor, rider, handler, driver or person 18 years of age or over, resident of New Zealand or otherwise, in charge of any horse, pony, donkey or mule exhibited at a Show or Event affiliated to the RAS, who has responsibility and liability for the welfare of the exhibit, and any incident, ruling or outcome in relation to that horse, pony, donkey or mule.

p) **Rap**

Rapping a horse anywhere on a show ground (which includes lifting the jump pole as the horse leaves the ground or adding or applying to a jump pole or the top of a fixed type jump or complete obstacle any items that might be considered abrasive or set to pierce the skin of a horse and cause pain) is prohibited.

q) **RAS**

Royal A&P Society New Zealand (RAS), also known as the Royal Agricultural Society of NZ (RAS).

r) **RAS Certificate**

- i. RAS issued Annual or Life Height Certificate, or Horse/Pony Identification Form. Previously known as Height Certificate and Performance Card.
- ii. The RAS Certificate and related intellectual capital, is the property of the RAS. The certificate is to remain with the horse/pony for the duration of its natural life and entitles the owner/lessee/partner of the horse/pony the right of use.

- s) **RAS District**  
District as defined by the Royal A&P Society New Zealand.
- t) **RAS Intellectual Property ©**  
All documentation approved and/or issued by the RAS, remains the property of the RAS.
- u) **RAS Resolution Process**  
The structure that is followed when a complaint/protest is tabled/lodged.
- v) **Representative**  
A person not being the owner or lessee/partner, showing the exhibit on behalf of the owner or lessee/partner
- w) **Restricted**  
Any class within a schedule that is not a novice or open conformation class or a novice or open paced and mannered class, and which does not (shall not) qualify a horse or rider for a championship. Examples are Best Walking Horse/Pony, Best Trotting Horse/Pony, Local Classes which restrict entry by age of the rider or by the geographical home/base location of the rider and the horse/pony.
- x) **Rule Book**  
The Equestrian Rules as printed in the RAS Equestrian Rulebook, for affiliated Shows/Events, Competitors, Exhibitors and Judges to abide by at affiliated Shows/Events.
- y) **Rules and Regulations**  
Rules and Regulations mean Rules and Regulations made by the RAS process currently in force.
- z) **Sale / Change of Ownership**
- i. A sale or change of ownership is only recognised when all the necessary paper work has been completed.
  - ii. A Change of Ownership form (which can be downloaded from the RAS website) must be completed and submitted to RAS Head Office within two weeks of the sale being made final, along with the fee and original RAS Certificate. The RAS Certificate will be amended (as well as the RAS database updated) and will be forwarded on to the new owner.
- aa) **Accredited Shows**  
These are standalone shows which are licenced and approved by the RAS. The full set of RAS Standard Qualifying Schedules will make up the programme with the exception of the cob section, which is acknowledged as only suitable for regions where this type of horse is bred/shown. Depending on the application and the licencing agreement that is issued, qualification to attend a particular Accredited Show may apply. Details of same will be published on the RAS web site and in the schedule of the event.

bb) **Show/Event**

All Shows and Events that are affiliated to the Royal A&P Society New Zealand.

cc) **Show Year / Seasons**

- i. The Show Year/Season is from 1 August to 31 July.
- ii. Spring Show season – 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- iii. Autumn Show season – 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> July.

dd) **Time Allotment**

Months are considered calendar months.

ee) **Trainer/Instructor/Tutor**

A person who trains and/or prepares horses and riders. A trainer may not necessarily receive reward for training and training may take place anywhere including Showground facilities.

ff) **Tuition**

Instruction of horse/pony and/or rider as an individual or in a group of two (2) or more riders in a clinic situation. The rider and/or horse/pony cannot compete under competition conditions under that instructor, as a judge, within six (6) months for a Royal or Horse of the Year show or 6 weeks for a local show, from the date of the last tuition or vice versa.



## CLASSES, DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY

### 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, except a foal up to 6 months of age, 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. Horses/Ponies to be presented to a showing ring with true and correct markings that match the markings on their height certificate. Any competitor found to have false markings on their horse/pony when they are presented to the gate to go into the showing ring will be disqualified by the show from their class/section.
- 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](http://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.

### CDE 2. LEAD REIN

- a) Lead Rein Ponies should be safe and suitable. They should possess a good front, even gaits and not be too wide for their small riders. The stride should not be too long, as they would unseat the rider and cause the rider to lose balance.
- b) Lead rein classes are designed for children on ponies 128cm and under. These children are those as yet unable to ride without assistance from a leader or attendant and should be judged accordingly.
- c) Riders taking part in this section are excluded from taking part in other sections of the show.
- d) The lead must be attached to the cavesson of a simple snaffle bridle—refer to Appendix B.
- e) The attendant/leader, must be 14 years or over, and hold the rein with their left hand so the right hand is free to assist the rider if necessary.
- f) Spurs are not allowed.
- g) A cane or a whip not exceeding 76cm in length, which includes a flap 2cm wide by 4cm long, may be carried by riders in the Lead Rein Section.
- h) Judging Criteria: Judged on - 60 % suitability, temperament and safeness;  
- 40% conformation and paces.

- i) Riders will not be asked to canter.
- j) A Best on Parade, Best Turned Out or Unity class is the only competition within this section when the costume or dress of the leader may also be taken into account.  
If it is the intention of the Show/Event to include the attendant/leader (14 years and over) as a part of the unit, this must be stated in the schedule. If the intention of the Show/Event is not properly stated it is reasonable for all parties connected with the horse/pony in the ring to assume that only the horse/pony and rider will be judged.
- k) Riders who have competed in the First Ridden, Novice and Open Pony Sections are no longer eligible for the Lead Rein section. This includes the overseas showing performances of New Zealand or visiting Riders.

### **CDE 3. FIRST RIDDEN**

- a) To provide a transition from the Lead Rein section to the open ridden section, where a rider does not have to canter on the circle in company. For that reason First Ridden Ponies should be safe and suitable. They should possess a good front, even gaits and not be too wide for their small riders. The stride should not be too long, as this would unseat the rider and cause the rider to lose balance. Ideally the First Ridden Pony is a little more scopey in both conformation and movement than the Lead Rein Pony, although many ponies compete successfully in both sections.
- b) A First Ridden Rider is only able to compete in this section for a maximum of twenty-four (24) months.
- c) First Ridden Ponies not to exceed 138cm.
- d) First Ridden Ponies must be ridden in a snaffle bridle with a cavesson noseband, a snaffle bit and a single rein – refer to Appendix B.
- e) A First Ridden Pony may compete in the Open ring with a different rider.
- f) No spurs to be worn.
- g) A cane or a whip not exceeding 76cm in length, which includes a flap 2cm wide by 4cm long, may be carried by riders in the First Ridden Section.
- h) Judging Criteria: Judged on - 60% suitability, temperament and safeness  
- 40% conformation and paces.
- i) All ponies to walk and trot in company, but may be asked to canter in their individual workout.
- j) Before finalising the workout the Judge must ascertain if the children can all manage canter work. If the children are not confident with canter this pace should not be included in the work out. Whatever paces the workout finally contains, it must be simple and designed to show that the child can manage a change of direction and a recognisable circle as a demonstration of the control and understanding expected at this level and age. Good manners and willingness from the pony and the balance and degree of control from the rider should each be taken into account. Conformation of the First Ridden Pony should be taken into account if more than one First Ridden class is offered and if this intention is clearly stated in the class description.
- k) The same Rider and Pony cannot enter in both the Lead Rein Section and the First Ridden Section or in an open ring, but a pony that has been entered in the Lead Rein, Group B or Group C Sections can be entered in the First Ridden Section with a different rider (who is eligible to compete in this section).
- l) A rider who has moved from the First Ridden into the open rings forfeits the right to compete again in any First Ridden Events at any A&P Show, affiliated show or event, or any show that the RAS may from time to time designate as a show requiring specific qualifications (e.g. Horse of the Year). This includes the overseas showing performances of New Zealand or visiting Riders.

#### **CDE 4. PONIES - Height Division**

- a) All equestrian classes shall be offered in height divisions.
  - b) Pony Rings shall be split as follows:
    - i. Group A Ponies - over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
    - ii. Group B Ponies - over 128 cm and not exceeding 138cm
    - iii. Group C Ponies - not exceeding 128cm
    - iv. Group D Saddle Hunter Ponies - not exceeding 148cm  
(may be split into relevant heights)
      - First Ridden Pony - not exceeding 138cm
      - Lead Rein Pony - not exceeding 128cm
      - Working Pony Hunter - not exceeding 148cm  
(may be split into relevant heights)
      - Hunter Jumping - not exceeding 148cm  
(may be split into relevant heights)
- Or Group A  
Ponies - over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
- Group B  
Ponies - not exceeding 138cm
- Or Pony Ring  
Ponies - not exceeding 148cm  
Guideline for classes with height sections: 113cm, 118cm,  
123cm, 133 cm, 143cm

#### **CDE 5. HACKS, SADDLE HUNTERS, RIDING HORSE, COBS etc. – Height Division**

- a) All equestrian classes shall be offered in height divisions - (but shows/events may within each height division offer additional classes by further splitting the standard schedule heights, or by using weight)  
An example of this is as follows  
Class xxx Lightweight Saddle Hunter over 148cm & not exceeding 163cm  
Class xxx Heavyweight Saddle Hunter over 148cm & not exceeding 163cm  
Class xxx Lightweight Saddle Hunter over 163cm  
Class xxx Heavyweight Saddle Hunter over 163cm)
  - i. Park Hacks - over 148cm and not exceeding 158cm
  - ii. Hacks - over 158cm
  - iii. Riding Horses - over 148cm
  - iv. Saddle Hunters - over 148cm
  - v. Cobs - Not exceeding 155cm
  - vi. Working Hunters - over 148cm
  - vii. Hunter Jumping - Horses over 148cm

## CDE 6. NOVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

- a) A Novice exhibit or rider is one that has **yet** to win six (6) classes in any division within the competitions provided at any A & P Show/Event.  
**Note:** To clarify further, at time of first day of the Show/Event competition  
If you have 0, 1 or 2 wins – you can enter the 0-2 wins class  
If you have 0, 1, 2 or 3 wins – you can enter the 0-3 wins class  
If you have 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wins – you can enter the 0-5 wins class  
Once you have achieved 6 wins in Conformation (excluding Ladies & Gents classes) and/or Paced & Mannered classes, you can no longer enter in Novice classes in that category.
- b) All Wins, whether they be novice or open, at all affiliated RAS Shows/Events including the NZ Horse of the Year (HOY) Show must be recorded on the RAS Certificate and/or Performance Card, until 6 wins are achieved.
- c) Sections may be Show Pony, Saddle Hunter Pony, Cobs, Park Hacks, Hacks, Saddle Hunters, Riding Horses, Paced and Manners Classes in each of the preceding divisions, Working Hunters (ponies/horses), Hunter Jumping Horse/Pony, and Rider Classes.
- d) Once an exhibit has achieved six (6) wins in any RAS section, the exhibit is not eligible to return to 'Novice' status even if it changes sections. Refer CDE. 1 c) & d), excluding Lead Rein & First Ridden.
- e) Winners failing to produce their RAS Certificate when requested by the Steward forfeit their awards on the day.
- f) Novice exhibits are eligible for Open classes. If that Novice exhibit wins the Open class then they are eligible for the Open Championship.
- g) All wins in Novice classes within each section (not breed sections) count and must be recorded on the RAS Certificate. Should a Novice exhibit win an Open conformation class, this win must also be recorded.
- h) The number of Novice wins is to be counted at the time of the Show/Event, not the time of entry. If a Novice entry exceeds the permitted number of wins by the day of the Show/Event, the competitor must advise the Secretary's Office and change to an Open class, or if no class remains to enter, a refund will be actioned after the Show/Event.
- i) **Imported Horse/Pony** - Any wins gained overseas by a horse/pony that is imported into New Zealand, count towards their classification when showing in New Zealand, i.e. whether it can still compete in the Novice section (5 wins or less), or if it has 6 or more wins, then it must compete in the Open section.
- j) Overseas performances of New Zealand or visiting Riders will count towards their classification when competing at RAS Shows in New Zealand ie: Novice (0-5 wins).

## CDE 7. JUDGING OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a) **Championships**
  - i. Novice Championships: Judged from the winners of the Novice Conformation classes within that section.
  - ii. Open Championships: Judged from the winners of the Open Conformation classes within that section.
  - iii. Paced and Mannered Championships: Judged from the winners of the Paced and Mannered classes within that section.
  - iv. Rider Championships: Judged from the winners of the Rider qualifying classes within the applicable sections.
  - v. Reserve Champion: Judged from the eligible winners and the second placed exhibit to the Champion.



disability who may require accessories or aids for competing. These aids might include (but not be restricted to) special tied stirrups, hearing equipment, monkey straps etc. All aids to be used must be stated explicitly on the application form and shall be transposed onto the card the rider carries at show. An application form is available on the RAS website – [www.ras.org.nz](http://www.ras.org.nz)

## **GR 6. ABUSE OF EXHIBITS**

- a) Any complaints of exhibit abuse, will be dealt through the RAS In-Line Resolution Process / Yellow/Red Card – view on [www.ras.org.nz](http://www.ras.org.nz)
- b) Abuse can be defined as intentionally acting in a way, which may cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. As examples, but not limited to;
  - i. Whip or beat an exhibit excessively
  - ii. Subject an exhibit to any kind of electric shock device
  - iii. Excessive or persistent use of spurs, or to jab the exhibit in the mouth with the bit.
  - iv. Remount, or attempt to remount, an obviously exhausted, lame or injured exhibit
  - v. 'Rap' an exhibit anywhere in or outside the grounds of the event
  - vi. Hyper sensitise any part of an exhibit
  - vii. Leave exhibit without adequate food, drink and exercise.
  - viii. The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) has teamed with Equestrian Sports New Zealand (ESNZ) and NZ Pony Club (and the FEI from 2021) and banned the trimming of whiskers, eye and inner ear hair for horses and ponies competing at affiliated A&P Shows and Kindred Events from the 1 January 2022.

## **GR 7. TEMPORARY PENS**

- a) The RAS shall from time to time endorse temporary pen systems that meet an agreed safety requirement; the nature of and the description of these pens (if any) will be published on the RAS Web Site
- b) Penning other than fixed permanent installments provided by a host show/event or approved by the RAS as in (a) above is banned at all RAS and affiliated shows/events and includes but not restricted to tape, strings, ropes, chains.
- c) Stallions and colts can only be tied to a truck or float if they are under constant supervision, or are tied within an approved solid framed portable yard (see (a) above) that is attached to the outside of the truck or float. Otherwise, they must be confined in stables, suitable yards, or within their floats or trucks.

## **GR 8. FALL OF RIDER**

If a rider has a fall or suspected head injury, at any time at a RAS affiliated Show/Event in the: competition ring/arena, practice/warmup/collecting ring/arena; or elsewhere within the grounds of where the show/event is being convened, the rider must be removed from the activity and checked by the show/event's nominated First Aid service/personnel and be given the 'all-clear' before the rider is permitted to re-mount and continue riding at the show/event.





## EEFSL 6. Results

- a). All affiliated Shows/Events must have their full Equestrian Results, including Champion, Reserve & Supreme Champion results published on the RAS website within five (5) working days of the Show/Event.

## EEFSL 7. Exhibitors/Owners/Competitors

- a). A Competitor is **ineligible** to compete under a Judge if (refer also to Judge rule J 25)
  - i. The competitor is a member of the Judge's family.
  - ii. The exhibit is owned or has been owned by the Judge, or Judge's family/business partner/employer within the last six (6) months.
  - iii. Any exhibit that has been leased or in partnership by the competitor from the Judge, or Judge's family/business partner/employer within the last six (6) months or the duration of the lease/partnership whichever is the longer.
  - iv. That Judge or Judge's family/business partner/employer has owned the exhibit being competed with, under that Judge, on that day, within the last six (6) months.
  - v. The exhibit being competed was bred by the Judge or Judge's family/ business partner/employer and was sold within the last six (6) months, no matter who was the seller.
  - vi. The Judge has been accommodated within one (1) calendar month prior to the event at the competitor's/exhibitors residence/family residence/competitor's business partners' residence/employers residence.
  - vii. Either the exhibit being exhibited on that day, under that Judge or the competitor him/herself, or any part of the combination have been involved in tuition/schooling by the Judge or Judge's family/business partner/employer, within the past six (6) months, or vice-versa.
  - viii. If the Judge has been a representative under competition conditions for the competitor/exhibitor's family/business partner/employer and his/her exhibit or any part of the combination within the past six (6) months for a Royal or Horse of the Year show or 6 weeks for a local show, no matter who owned the exhibit during this period.
  - ix. The Judge or Judge's family/business partner has employed the competitor/exhibitor within the last six (6) months.
  - x. The competitor's/exhibitor's exhibit is in the incorrect height group (class) or if that competitor/exhibitor cannot produce a current RAS Certificate on the day.
  - xi. The competitor/exhibitor has entered the exhibit in the incorrect class, the competitor entered in the incorrect age grouping of either the exhibit or the competitor.
  - xii. The competitor/exhibitor has not entered the exhibit under its correct registered name; colour, markings, and/or brands differ from those on the exhibit's registration card.
- b) Ownership - All exhibits entered in competitive classes or ring events or parading (whether by invitation or by entry) must be entered in the name of the bona fide owner. All animals must be named at time of entry, as on their RAS Certificate where applicable.
- c) Leases/Partnerships - A lease/partnership lodged with the RAS must cover each leased or partnered exhibit competing at any Show/Event. A lease or partnership must be recorded with the RAS on a recognised form to be acceptable. All benefits and penalties relating to an exhibit shall be attributed to the lessee or partner. If the exhibit is

registered with an affiliated Breed Society the lease/partnership must also be registered with that Society.

Leases or Partnerships must be for no less than a six (6) month period and shall commence, on receipt of confirmation from the RAS that it has been received.

- d) Lent or Borrowed - If an exhibit is lent or borrowed (Lease or Partnership not filed) by the owner to compete, the owner will remain the Person Responsible for that Exhibit.
- e) No competitor/exhibitor shall deface or alter registration papers, or RAS documents. Damaged cards, certificates, or registration papers are not acceptable and must be replaced.
- f) Exhibitors must be shown in their current recorded height group and classes.
- g) Where classes are defined by height, competitors/exhibitors must carry a current RAS Certificate for their exhibit 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. It is the responsibility of all competitors/exhibitors to ensure that certificate/form is completely filled in by the Measuring Stand personnel.
- h) Inevitably circumstances will arise which are not precisely covered. In such circumstances where ever possible the spirit of the Constitution and the Rules and Regulations will be followed to produce the fairest result for all.



- CS 4.** When any person presents a horse, pony, donkey or mule for competition, or at a measuring stand, which is found to have had administered to it or ingested by it any forbidden substance, that person and/or other person who was in charge of such horse, pony, donkey or mule at any relevant time, commits a breach of these rules unless he/she can satisfy the CSJC or Hearing Committee that he/she had taken all necessary precautions to prevent such administration or ingestion.
- CS5.** Every Person Responsible (PR) and Horse/Pony/Donkey/Mule who commits a breach of these rules and by-laws of RAS Showing Rules & Regulations 55, 56 & 57 shall be stood down immediately from showing, competing or attending at any RAS affiliated Show/Event from the date the positive analytical report has been served to the PR, and the PR be liable to penalties unless otherwise specified:
- (a) A fine not exceeding \$10,000.00 and/or
  - (b) Disqualification of any horse/pony/donkey/mule/person from competing in Shows or events under the control of the RAS or its affiliates for a period not exceeding two (2) years.
  - (c) That when penalties are considered for a breach of these rules, the CSJC or the hearing committee may order the forfeiture of prize monies, ribbons, sashes, rosettes and trophies awarded at the event where the breach was committed.
  - (d) The CSJC or Hearing Committee may award costs against the Defendant
  - (e) A second offence of Horse, Pony, Donkey, Mule or Person may incur a disqualification from one (1) year to Life
  - (f) These penalties are in force for the time being but may be reviewed from time to time by the CSJC and confirmed by the RAS Executive and approved by the Council.
  - (g) Where a breach of these Rules is committed, the CSJC may adjudicate or may appoint a hearing committee of a minimum of three persons to act and hear the charges. They (CSJC or Hearing Committee) shall decide if a breach has been committed and have the power to impose penalties and/or costs
  - (h) The CSJC may, at its discretion (or no less than three members thereof), impose penalties and/or costs in the case of a guilty or no contest plea
  - (i) The Appeal process as detailed in the CSJC Procedures shall apply
  - (j) That the publication of the decision where penalties have been imposed will be mandatory unless ordered otherwise by the CSJC.
  - (k) Test results will be published stating the result of the test, Person Responsible, and the name of the Horse/Pony/Donkey/Mule tested.
- CS6.** Every person is an accessory after the fact to a breach of these Rules who, knowing any person to have been a party to, or have committed a breach of these Rules receives, comforts, or assists that person or tampers with or actively suppresses any evidence against him/her, in order to enable him/her to avoid prosecution under these Rules.
- CS7.** Any horse, pony, donkey or mule may be tested for Forbidden Substances at any Show/Event under the By-Laws and Regulations adopted by the Royal Agricultural Society, its affiliates and the Procedures adopted by the CSJC, approved by the RAS Executive and confirmed by the Council. Exhibitors or persons entering or competing at Shows and Events affiliated to the RAS shall be deemed to accept and be bound by these By-Laws, Regulations and Procedures.

**CS8.** Any person who refuses to permit a sample or samples (of blood or urine) to be taken from any horse, pony, donkey or mule commits a breach of these rules. The refusal of the person or their representative to sign as a witness to the test shall be treated as a refusal to submit the animal for examination. Where a person commits a breach of this rule, the penalty shall be disqualification from one year up to life of the Horse/Pony/Donkey/Mule/Person or both from competing in RAS or affiliate events.



- c) The competitor/exhibitor and/or exhibit have been accommodated by the Judge or Judge's family/business partner/employer one (1) month prior to the day of competition.
- d) The competitor/exhibitor has been a representative under competition conditions for the Judge or Judge's family/business partner/employer, and his exhibit or any part of the combination within the last six (6) months. The exhibit may not necessarily have been owned by that Judge at the time of representation by the competitor.
- e) The Judge has either employed, or been employed by the competitor's/exhibitor's family/business partner or has employed the competitor/exhibitor's family/business partner in the last six (6) months.
- f) Either the exhibit being exhibited on that day or the competitor/exhibitor or the combination have been under tuition by the Judge/Judge's family/Judge's business partner/Judge's employer within the past six (6) months, for a Royal or Horse of the Year show or 6 weeks for regional shows, or vice-versa.





## 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, except a foal up to 6 months of age, 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](http://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 \$40.00  
Annual re-measure \$25.00  
Young Stock re-measure \$15.00  
Life Certificate \$100.00  
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 \$100.00  
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) The owner is not obliged to accept the achieved height on the day. If the height is not accepted by the owner, no measure will be provided, and no refund of measure will be given. The owner will have to re-book for a new measure at the full price.
- 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: except when the horse has attained the height of 168cm or higher; the Horse/Pony has presented for three (3) consecutive annual measures from the age of eight (8) years which are within 0.5cm of each other, in which case shoes are optional; or if the Horse is over 168cm, in which case shoes are optional. If shoes are fitted, only 0.5cm allowance shall be made. No allowance shall be made for thin or worn racing plates or shoes.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3 years of age and under are deemed 'Youngstock' and are not eligible for Annual Measures except for youngstock horses who measure over 148cm at their first measure of the season. Their measure will be valid until July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

## **M9 Youngstock Measures**

Youngstock measures are specifically designed for youngstock ponies/horses 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.

- a) Youngstock are granted specific exemptions to the rules. Youngstock Measures issued to a horse/pony or Miniature horse after August 1<sup>st</sup> will be valid until January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year, except for youngstock horses who measure over 148cm at their first measure of the season. Their measure will be valid until July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

- b) Measures issued or endorsed after January 1<sup>st</sup> will be valid until the end of the current Show season i.e. July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.