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 2026.
Please ensure that you update your Rulebook and advise your Equestrian Section Convenor of the updates…

Index

- Remove page 2/3 and **replace with the enclosed new page 2/3**

Equestrian Rules – ER

- Remove page 6/7 **replace with the enclosed new page 6/7.**

Classes, Definition and Eligibility – CDE

- Remove page 4/5 & 6/7 and **replace with the enclosed new page 4/5 & 6/7**

General Rules - GR

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

GR 6. Abuse of Exhibits

ix Horses and ponies must not be lunged for more than a total of 30 minutes per day, whether with or without a rider, at a RAS affiliated Show/Event.

GR 9. Riding Gear

Minimum Standard Schedule - MSS

- Remove page 8/9 and **replace with enclosed new page 8/9.**

Entries, Entry Forms, Schedules, Levies - EEFSL

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

Judges - J

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

Thank you for all your time and support as a Member – wishing you all the best for the 2026.2027 show season.

Kind Regards, RAS Head Office

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INDEX

TAB		PAGES
1.	**Equestrian Rules (ER)**	**1-7**
	ER 1. – ER 6. Equestrian rules	2
	ER 7. a) – j) Introduction	2-3
	ER 8. a) – ff) Definition of Terms	3-7
2.	**Classes, Definitions and Eligibility (CDE)**	**1-9**
	CDE 1. RAS Certificate & Horse/Pony Classification	2
	CDE 2. Lead Rein	2-3
	CDE 3. First Ridden	3
	CDE 4. Ponies – Height Division	4
	CDE 5. Hacks, Saddle Hunters, Riding Horse, Cobs etc. – Height Division	4
	CDE 6. Novice Classifications	5
	CDE 7. Judging of Championships	5-7
	CDE 8. Hunter Jumping	7
	CDE 9. Jumps	7
	CDE 10. Working Hunters	8
	CDE 11. Age of Riders & Handlers	8
	CDE 12. Age of Ridden Exhibits	8
	CDE 13. Mares	8
	CDE 14. Stallions and Colts	9
3.	**General Rules (GR)**	**1-4**
	GR 1. Rules	2
	GR 2. Infringements	2
	GR 3. Conduct	2
	GR 4. Hats and Safety Helmets	2-3
	GR 5. Saddlery and Accessories	3
	GR 6. Abuse of Exhibits	4
	GR 7. Temporary Pens	4
	GR 8. Fall of Rider	4
	GR 9. Riding Gear	4
4.	**Minimum Standard Qualifying Section Schedule For Shows/Events (MSS)**	**1-13**
	MSS 1. Minimum Standard Qualifying Section	2
	MSS 2. Minimum Standard Qualifying Section Schedule For Shows/Events	2-3
	MSS 2.1 Minimum Standard Qualifying Sections for Schedule	3-13
5.	**Entries, Entry Forms, Schedules, Levies (EEFSL)**	**1-5**
	EEFSL 1. Equestrian Levy	2
	EEFSL 2. Entry Forms	2
	EEFSL 3. Schedule Wording	2-3
	EEFSL 4. Entries	3
	EEFSL 5. Schedules	3
	EEFSL 6. Results	4
	EEFSL 7. Exhibitors/Owners/Competitors	4-5

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6. Clean Sport (CS) **1-4**

7. Judges (J) **1-4**
J 1 – J 25. Judges

8. Measuring (M) **1-8**

Appendix

A. Temporary Measuring Certificate (TMC) **1-3**

B. Acceptable Snaffle Bits for Lead Rein & First Ridden **1-2**

C. Standard Royal A&P Show Schedule **1-12**

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 – 1st August to 31st December.
iii. Autumn Show season – 1st January to 31st 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 in a Breed section/class, from the date of the last tuition or vice versa.

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 RAS A & P Show/Event, or overseas RAS shows/events equivalent.
   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.
vi. Wins in Restricted classes do not qualify for the Championship.
vii. In the situation where an exhibit misbehaves, fails to work out or appears uneven during the Championship judging, regardless of how many first prizes won, or fails to stand for the presentation, it is the Judge's prerogative to be able to place it accordingly.
viii. The exhibit competing for Champion, Reserve Champion or Supreme Champion should be ridden by the rider who qualified the exhibit; however dispensation for a substitute rider may be given at the discretion Chief Steward under the following conditions:
    i. in the event of illness, or
    ii. the original rider is competing in another ring, or
    iii. has more than one exhibit in the Championships, or
    iv. Show/Event's timetable does not allow – the Show/Event will endeavour to make every effort to accommodate.

b) **Champion**

When judging of all eligible classes within the division has been completed
- The first place winners from relevant classes return to the ring
- Second place winners to standby
- The Judge will then select his/her Champion.

c) **Reserve Champion**
- Remaining first class winners to remain in the ring.
- Steward then calls in the second place winner from the class(es) from which the Champion has been selected. The exhibit must receive the same consideration as the first place class winners and judge equally for the title of Reserve Champion.
- The only exemption to this rule is when a Show/Event offers Champion Hunter Class to be competed for by virtue of a payment of a fee to start in a specifically designed and described class.

d) **Supreme Champion**
- Open Championship winners from all appropriate Divisions judged under the 60 / 40 criteria.
- Winners judged under any other criteria do not qualify. i.e. Working Hunters.
- The Schedule should clearly list from which divisions the Exhibits & Judges shall come from.
- Judges, independent of each other, are to place each exhibit by their ID number from first to last using the RAS Judging Pad Form.
- A Judge or Steward will be selected to run the class as directed by the judges concerned.
- No consulting between Judges or Stewards is permitted.
- In the situation where there is only two judges, this procedure must still be carried out initially.
- In the situation where there is an equal - If a winner cannot be decided upon amicably a third judge will be called upon.
- The Chief Steward and an assistant will collate the placings, using the Official RAS Stewards Record Pad Form.
- The ID number of the exhibit with the highest number of First placings is the winner.

- In the case of equal first the second placings will be used and so on until the winner is established.
- In the situation where there is still no clear winner a Judge from another Ring will be called upon to decide the winner.

e) Conformation Judging

i. Most RAS sections (Hacks, Park Hacks, Riding Horse, Saddle Hunter, Show Pony and Saddle Hunter Pony) are judged under the 60/40 criteria – i.e. 60% conformation and 40% paces and manners. The judges would therefore place a higher emphasis on conformation than the paces and manners in these classes/section.

ii. In the Working Hunter Sections (both horse and pony) the judging criteria is jumping style and ability 40%, conformation 30%, paces and manners 30%. In these sections, less emphasis is placed on the conformation side of things though it remains important.

iii. In the Lead Rein and First Ridden sections the judging criteria is 60% suitability, temperament and safeness, and 40% conformation and paces. Once again conformation is of a lesser priority than the suitability, temperament and safe ride aspects of the pony however, still retains some significance.

CDE 8. HUNTER JUMPING

The jumps set at affiliated A&P Shows/Events for hunter jumping should be set as per the heights distances and requirements set in this rule book.

CDE 9. JUMPS

a) The maximum distances for One Stride Doubles are:
10 metres (33 feet) for horses
8.5 metres (27 feet) for ponies over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
7.5 metres (24 feet) for ponies not exceeding 138cm

b) The minimum distances for One Stride Doubles are:
8.5 metres (27 feet) for horses
7.5 metres (24 feet) for ponies over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
6.5 metres (21 feet) for ponies not exceeding 138cm
When setting doubles, all distances are set in relationship to the height of the fences.

c) Jump heights, measured from the ground to the top of the jump, board, rail or similar (not including the brush), are not to exceed:
125cm for horses
105cm for ponies over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
85cm for ponies over 128cm and not exceeding 138cm
70cm for ponies' 128cm and under.

d) The height of the brush above the top board to be a minimum of 25cm to a maximum of 30cm, with a recommended packed depth width of 15cm.

e) It is mandatory that brush jumps be pinned.

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

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

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.
   ix. Horses and ponies must not be lunged for more than a total of 30 minutes per day, whether with or without a rider, at a RAS affiliated Show/Event.

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.

GR 9. RIDING GEAR

Riders of any age on Ponies must wear jodhpur boots. No long boots, chaps or gaiters.All Riders under 17yrs in riding classes must wear jodhpur boots. No long boots, chaps or gaiters.

k) **Rider**

These classes could be added to the appropriate ring according to the manner in which the sections have been divided and how the timetable is set or Rider Classes could make up a separate ring.
The classes below are a minimum with males and females competing against one another.
Shows are encouraged to offer separate classes for males and females wherever possible.

Class xxx	Best Novice Junior Rider, 0-5 wins
Class xxx	Best Rider, 11 years and under
Class xxx	Best Rider, 12, 13 and 14 years
Class xxx	Best Rider, 15 and 16 years Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Rider (To be judged from the winners of classes excluding any Novice class. Second placed Junior Rider to the Champion to be judged alongside the remaining winners for Reserve Champion)
Class xxx	Best Rider, 17 years and under 21 years
Class xxx	Best Rider, 21 years and over (Champion and Reserve Champion Senior Rider. To be judged from the winners of classes excluding any Novice class. Second placed Rider to the Champion to be judged alongside the remaining winners for Reserve Champion)

l) **Cobs**

Cob classes are supported in some regions and unknown in others; the classes below are the minimum to be used if a Cob Section is included.
The Cob Section is not a requirement of any show and should only be included if local demand is evident.

Note: Shows can still run a Novice 0-2 class as well as the Novice 0-5 class and then have a Novice Championship for these two classes, if they so choose.

Class xxx	Novice Cob, 0-5 wins
Class xxx	Novice Paced & Mannered Cob, 0-5 wins
Class xxx	Cob, over 150cm and not exceeding 155cm - capable of carrying 95 kgs
Class xxx	Cob, up to and including 150cm - capable of carrying 83 kgs Champion and Reserve Champion Open Cob (To be judged from the winners of classes xxx, xxx. Second placed Cob to the Champion to be judged alongside the remaining winners for Reserve Champion)
Class xxx	Open Paced and Mannered Cob OR
Class xxx	Open Cob – Best Paces to be Judged
Class xxx	Open Cob – Best Manners to be Judged

m) **Working Hunter Ponies**

Working Hunter Ponies are required to demonstrate jumping ability and be of good strong conformation with good manners, sound paces and be a comfortable ride over long distances. They will be required to jump a minimum of three (3) hunter type fences. Jumping style and ability 40%, conformation 30%, paces and manners 30%. Ponies will be required to gallop within the confines and constraints of the venue involved. No boots or bandages permitted.

Class xxx Novice Working Hunter Pony, 0-5 wins
Class xxx Open Working Hunter Pony, not exceeding 138cm
Class xxx Open Working Hunter Pony, over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
Champion and Reserve Champion Working Hunter Pony
(To be judged from the winners of the open classes only. Second placed horse to the champion to be judged alongside the remaining winners for reserve)

n) **Working Hunter Horses**

Working Hunters Horses are required to demonstrate jumping ability and be of good strong conformation with good manners, sound paces and be a comfortable ride over long distances. They will be required to jump a minimum of three (3) hunter type fences. Jumping style and ability 40%, conformation 30%, paces and manners 30%. Horses will be required to gallop within the confines and constraints of the venue involved. No boots or bandages permitted.

Class xxx Novice Working Hunter Horse, 0-5 wins
Class xxx Open Working Hunter Horse, over 148cm and not exceeding 163cm
Class xxx Open Working Hunter Horse, over 163cm
Champion and Reserve Champion Working Hunter Horse
(To be judged from the winners of the open classes only. Second placed Working Hunter Horse to the Champion to be judged alongside the remaining winners for Reserve Champion)

o) **Hunter Jumping**

Additional classes that may be added to the schedule are; additional Novice classes, Wire Jump, Qualified Hunters, Handy Hunter, Lady's Hunter, Gentleman's Hunter. These classes are not eligible for Championship judging.

i. Ponies - not exceeding 148cm

Class xxx Novice Pony Hunter over fences, 0-5 wins
Class xxx Open Pony Hunter over fences, not exceeding 138cm
Class xxx Open Pony Hunter over fences, over 138cm and not exceeding 148cm
Champion and Reserve Champion Hunter Jumping Pony.
(To be judged from the winners of the open classes and any additional classes, except novice, noted above. Second placed Hunter Jumping Pony to the champion to be judged alongside the remaining winners for reserve).

ii. Horses - over 148cm

Class xxx Novice Hunter over fences, 0-5 wins
Class xxx Open Hunter over fences, over 148cm and not exceeding 163cm

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 6 weeks in a Breed section/class, 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) Exhibit0.s 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.

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, or 6 weeks in a Breed section/class, or vice-versa.