

# ARAB HORSE SOCIETY

## Good Conduct and Discipline

The attention of Members and other persons is drawn to the disciplinary provisions of the Arab Horse Society (AHS) whereby the AHS have wide powers to discipline Members and other persons in the event of failure to observe any provisions of these Rules or any other regulations and rules made by the AHS.

The Rules are intended to ensure that Members compete against each other in AHS competitions under the fairest possible conditions but inevitably circumstances will arise which are not precisely covered. In such circumstances, wherever possible, the spirit of the Rules will be followed to produce the fairest result for Members.

1. All Members of the AHS are bound by its Rules as amended from time to time and shall be deemed to have consented to all the provisions thereof by reason of all or any of the following:
  - a) Submission of a membership application form followed by acceptance of membership.
  - b) Submission of a request for annual renewal of membership followed by acceptance of such renewal.
  - c) Registration of a horse.
  - d) Registration of a lease/loan of a horse or its transfer of ownership.
  - e) Any other act by a Member pursuant to the Rules of the AHS.
2. Neither the AHS nor any of its Officials or Judges accept any financial responsibility for its or their decisions.
3. No Member of the AHS shall conduct himself in a manner or be guilty of behaviour which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the AHS and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) no member shall behave in an offensive or abusive or unpleasant manner to any person at any show or at any other location where the AHS business is being transacted or via social media or the internet or via any publication in whatever format or via any other written or electronic format. Members' attention is drawn to the AHS Social Media and Internet Policy. It is the duty of every Member to assist the officers of the AHS in their investigations of breaches of the Rules and an unreasonable failure or refusal to assist any such officer in such investigation will itself constitute a breach of the Rules.

4. Members shall not ill-treat horses at any time whether by misuse or excessive use of a whip or bit or any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever.
5. Members are responsible for the actions of any non-members who are Family Members (as defined below) or who are friends or friends of Family Members or who are employed by them or assisting, supporting or representing them or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or conduct of such non-member which would be a breach of the Rules were he a Member shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Member concerned. Family member shall include a spouse or civil partner, a partner, a direct descendant or ascendant of the Member or his spouse or civil partner, brothers, sisters, or adopted children of the Member or his spouse or civil partner, or any other person who is part of the same household as the Member or is in the reasonable opinion of the AHS a member of the Member's family in the widest sense.

Failure to observe any of the rules may result in disqualification of the horse concerned and the institution of disciplinary proceedings by the AHS against the person breaking the rules in accordance with the AHS Rules. In the event of disqualification of a horse any cup, rosette or prize money must be returned forthwith to the Show or the AHS as appropriate.

Any Member or Non-Member or pony or horse that is suspended for any period of time as a result of any disciplinary action taken may not compete in an AHS Show or an AHS affiliated Show during the period of any such suspension unless the Disciplinary Committee, in its absolute discretion, decides otherwise after making such investigations as it deems appropriate.

## **AHS Child Protection Procedure**

1. Child protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 (up to 16 years of age) and legislation is in place to protect children from significant harm, abuse (physical/sexual/emotional), neglect and exploitation. The AHS ensures its response to safeguarding concerns are in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).
2. The Arab Horse Society takes its responsibilities to ensure that children competing at our events do so in a safe and protected environment.
3. It is acknowledged that when children compete in AHS competitions this is done so in the public domain and relationships between children and any officials is different to those of an instructor/trainer relationship. Therefore, safeguards that need to be put in place do not need to be as extensive.
4. In all circumstances, parents remain accountable and responsible for the safety of their children and their own actions and behaviour towards their own and other people's children whilst competing in AHS competitions.
5. The AHS takes its responsibilities in this regard very seriously and requires all its paid employees, directors (Council Members), judges and officials to voluntarily disclose

whether they have any convictions, cautions or outstanding matters that would prohibit or make them unsuitable to be in the close proximity of children or vulnerable adults. (This includes criminal convictions that would otherwise be classed as 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974). This declaration authorises the Society to request an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Certificate on any person where any concerns are raised and to ban anyone who they deem to be unsuitable from membership of the Society.

6. The Society takes the safety and security very seriously and always contracts with an appropriate security provider to minimise risks and ensure that everyone can compete in a safe environment.
7. It is everyone's responsibility to report and take action, if they believe any child is being subject to abuse. In such circumstances, the Society will report these matters to the Police and relevant child protection agencies immediately upon receipt of the information. Information of this nature will not and cannot be kept confidential as the safety of child and young people is paramount.

## **The Arab Horse Society Disability Policy**

The Arab Horse Society (AHS) is supportive of riders competing in its classes who may suffer from a physical or learning disability.

The Society recognises that horses and ponies can have a very positive impact on the lives of people suffering a disability and as an inclusive organisation, will endeavour to be as supportive as possible in these situations. Riders who have a disability are welcome to compete in AHS classes providing the following criteria are met;

- i) All riders are judged equally, one against the other.
- ii) Riders with a disability must only compete in classes in accordance with the rules and eligibility as described in the AHS Rules.
- iii) The Society has the right to make reasonable adjustments to allow a rider with a disability to compete in its classes; this is at the sole discretion of the Officers and/or Council of the Society.
- iv) All riders in the AHS classes must be competent and able to compete without putting the safety of others at risk.
- v) Any rider seeking a dispensation card for a permanent or temporary disability must also have a doctor's letter stating their fitness to ride in the class.

This policy does not set out all of the circumstances of what are and will be approved as reasonable adjustments to enable a rider with a disability to compete in AHS classes.

For example; the Society can issue dispensation for riders with a permanent or temporary disability to allow another person to complete the 'In Hand' section of a class.

It is recognised that riders, with for example, hearing loss or learning difficulties may require extra patience and care from stewards, judges and officials to ensure they clearly understand any instructions given to them, e.g. setting a show or being asked questions by the judge. In such circumstances, the parent or those with responsibility for care of the competitor must advise the steward in advance of the class, who will then ensure the judge, is made aware of the particular circumstances in advance of the class commencing and make reasonable adjustments.

Any member who has any issues or concerns regarding competing in AHS classes with any form of disability, should contact an Officer of the Society or show.

## **The AHS Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Shows or Events**

### PREFACE

In these guidelines, “horse/pony” refers to “horse or horses, pony or ponies.”

#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 General Conditions

The British Horse Society (BHS) Welfare Department receives a considerable number of welfare concerns regarding the conduct of competitors at shows. The main complaints received include the ill treatment and management of competitors' horses. This guidance has been developed by the BHS who have advised “The Showing Council” (TSC) in developing bespoke guidance for competitors/members competing in Member Body classes.

1.2 These guidelines have been produced to provide advice and support to members, competitors, show organisers, stewards, judges, volunteer assistants and spectators.

1.3 A copy of the original document, on which this is based, “The British Horse Society Guidelines for the Welfare of Horses at Events” can be obtained on the BHS website ([www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)).

1.4 Under the Animal Welfare Act (2006), the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, (hereinafter referred to as “The Welfare Acts”) every horse owner or those responsible for a horse have a ‘duty of care’ to ensure the animal’s well-being. Thus, causing suffering and ill treatment are no longer the only grounds for prosecution under animal welfare law. It is now an offence to fail to take adequate steps to ensure a horse's welfare, even if the animal is not yet at the point of suffering.

1.5 At all stages during the preparation and training of show horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery, tack and transportation.

1.6 Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health and condition before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety and misuse of aids.

## 2. Health and Hygiene

The spread of equine disease is a perpetual risk when attending shows. Horse owners should act responsibly and not attend a show if there is a disease outbreak at their yard, even if the horse taken to the show does not appear ill. This is because some diseases have an incubation period of at least 14 days.

2.1 Strangles, in particular, is a highly contagious equine disease. Horse owners should take simple steps to help reduce the spread of this disease. All horse owners and show staff are encouraged to read the 'Strategy to Eradicate and Prevent Strangles (STEPS)' available from the BHS website.

2.2 Water is available to horses on the show ground. In order to prevent the spread of disease, horses should not share water buckets.

2.3 Competitors must be mindful of disease risk when stabling horses away from home and precautions taken i.e. removal of bedding and use of disinfectant spray.

## 3. Transport

3.1 Competitors need to be aware of The Welfare of Animals During Transport Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. Anybody who transports horses over 65 km and for up to eight hours in connection with an economic activity needs to apply for a Transporter Authorisation and have a Certificate of Competence.

3.2 Economic activity is not defined in the regulations but would include those paid to transport horses to a show, and professional riders as this is part of their business. Those transporting horses in connection with an economic activity on short journeys (over 65km and up to eight hours) require Transporter Authorisation (from 5 January 2007) and a Certificate of Competence (from January 2008). Long journeys (more than eight hours) will require a long journey Transporter Authorisation and Certificate of Competence. An owner competing their horse for fun would not be covered by these requirements even if they win a small amount of prize money.

3.2 General animal welfare provisions apply on ALL journeys. The horse must be fit to travel, provided with feed, water and rest stops as needed. The vehicle and loading/unloading facilities must be safe and designed to avoid injury and those handling the horse must be competent and not cause the animal unnecessary fear or distress.

3.3 Some horses can be difficult to load. There are a variety of methods to safely load a difficult horse. All partitions and ramps should be open to make the

horse box or trailer look bigger and add extra light. For added control the horse should be loaded in its bridle (if already trained in a bit) to prevent it from breaking loose.

- 3.4 Where more than one horse is travelling in a vehicle, it may help to load the other horses first to encourage the difficult loader. This is as long as the others are not dominant over the difficult loader.
- 3.5 Only one person should lead the horse and, if possible, one person stands near to each side of the ramp. The horse could be encouraged in with food. Lunge lines can be used by crossing them behind the horse's hindquarters and then adding pressure gently to encourage the horse to load. Only experienced persons should assist to ensure the lines do not become tangled up with the horse's legs.
- 3.6 Do not continue to try and load an extremely agitated, stressed or upset horse. Calm the horse down and then re-attempt to load. The horse must not be hit with excessive force or frequency with a whip or any other implement (see Discipline of the Horse).

#### 4. Passports

- 4.1 Horses being transported to a show must be accompanied by their passport.
- 4.2 Some shows will require that horses attending the show are vaccinated against tetanus and influenza and will therefore wish to check the horse's passport. This applies to, but is not limited to, Horse of the Year Show and Olympia who require up to date influenza vaccination in accordance with each shows' regulations.

#### 5. Welfare of Horses

##### 5.1 Responsibilities of Owners/Keepers/Competitors

Overall responsibility for the horse lies with the individual who has charge of the horse/pony on the day of the show. This may not be the animal's owner. However, all of those involved with the horse have a duty of care to ensure its welfare.

- 5.2 No horse should be ill-treated in any way on the showground.

##### 5.3 Provision of Feed and Water

- 5.3.1 The horse should be offered water regularly throughout the day. Water should be offered more frequently during hot weather. Some horses prefer to drink water from their own yard. It is therefore a good idea to bring water from the yard in containers to prevent the horse from becoming dehydrated. Adding something tasty to the water can help the horse drink and electrolytes are useful in really hot weather.

- 5.3.2 Long intervals between classes can mean horses waiting for long periods for their next class. Allowing the horse to graze in-hand and/or providing hay/haylage will help keep the horse occupied, prevent them from becoming bored and help to maintain a healthy gut.
- 5.3.3 If a horse is being allowed to graze, ensure there are no poisonous plants or rubbish that it could accidentally consume.
- 5.3.4 If a horse is tied-up to graze, it should be supervised. The lead-rein used to secure the horse must not be too long, potentially allowing the horse to become tangled up and panic.
- 5.3.5 If a concentrate feed is provided, the horse should not be asked to work strenuously for a minimum of one hour after completing the meal. Concentrate feeds should not be provided to a horse immediately following strenuous exercise.
- 5.3.6 No horse should be left unattended unless they are in the horse box/trailer and, known to behave sensibly when ordinarily left in such a situation.
- 5.3.7 For safety reasons a horse should only be tied to a horse box/trailer if it can be quickly and safely released in the event of an emergency, or the horse/pony becoming distressed and must not be left unattended. Individual shows or show grounds do not allow horses/ponies to be tied to horse boxes or trailers and competitors should refer to the individual showground rules.
- 5.3.8 Horses should not be tethered on the showground either to a structure or point in the ground except in circumstances detailed in 5.3.7.
- 5.3.9 The weather conditions will affect the welfare requirements of the horse. In hot weather use any shade available to keep the horse out of direct sunlight. Once the horse has finished competing in its class it may need to be washed down. Appropriate rugs may also be needed, for example a sweat rug or cooler rug.
- 5.3.10 During cold weather, heavier, warm rugs may be needed, especially if the horse is clipped.
- 5.3.11 During wet weather, waterproof sheets could be worn while warming the horse up and kept over the horse's hindquarters until they enter the class. At the discretion of the judge, grooms may enter the ring to provide a waterproof sheet in inclement weather.
- 5.3.12 During hot weather, plenty of water should be available to wash down a hot horse. If there is access to shade, keep the horse in that area and begin washing the horse down with cold water. Packs of ice must not be used to cool the horse.
- 5.3.13 During summer weather, horse boxes and trailers can get very hot. If the horse is kept in the horse box/trailer ensure any windows and roof vents are left open and the ramps are left down to maximise air flow (ramp side gates should be kept closed).
- 5.3.14 No horse should be ridden all day without sufficient breaks, watering and feeding. Children should be supervised by a responsible adult to ensure that the horse receives adequate rest time.

6. Stabling

- 6.1 Under no circumstances should any horse be kept stabled in a trailer or horse box overnight. Overnight stabling is available at most showgrounds. Pull out stables on lorries, temporary pens etc. are not permitted. Competitors must abide by the Codes of Practice for each show and or showground.
- 6.2 No horse should be kept tied up overnight or have water withheld.