



## JUDGES' NEWSLETTER – Issue 1 April 2011

### **SEMINAR CALENDAR**

*(Please contact the relevant Regional Promotional Group  
(contact details are in Action) for more information)*

**Southern NSW RPG - Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Eastern NSW RPG - Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> 2011**

*This is the first issue of our 'Judges' Newsletter'.*

*These newsletters will be published twice yearly, as a way of keeping Judges' informed of any updates and useful information. Suggestions or queries to be included in the Newsletter are very welcome. Please phone or email the Office or our Society Judges' Coordinator, Mrs Helen Slee if you have any thoughts.*

**JUDGES' SEMINARS** Judges are required to attend a WPCSA Seminar at least every three years. Seminars are an important way of Judges' sharing their knowledge with one another. There are regular amendments to rules and regulations, as well as new classes such as the Native Pony Championships introduced from time to time. Risk Management Requirements are regularly reviewed and updated also.

- If you are unable to attend a seminar within the three year requirement, please write or email the office explaining your intention to attend as soon as possible, and this will be noted at the Office.

**JUDGES' REGULATIONS & SHOW REGULATIONS:** Please be aware there have been changes recently to some of the rules regarding showing.

**SAFETY:** In the interests of safety for all at a show, while in the marshalling area, and entering or departing the ring, competitors now required to go at no faster than a WALK. Please remember, as a judge, the safety of competitors, spectators, stewards and marshals is your first consideration. This regulation is included in the Show & Judge's Regulations and will come into effect as of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2011-

*See Judges' Regulation no. 22 below:*

**\*\*22** While in the marshalling area, and when entering and departing the ring, exhibits must be at no faster pace than the WALK, unless directed otherwise by the Ring Master / Official. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

***HANDY HINT:*** *as this is a newly introduced rule, exhibitors may not be familiar with it. It is suggested that if exhibitors enter at a faster pace than a walk, the steward / marshal give the exhibitor the opportunity to leave and re-enter at a walk correctly.*

Please note that Rule 23 of the Judges' Rules has been expanded to include harness classes. It now reads:

**\*\* 23** *A fall of exhibit or rider/driver in any ridden or harness class will result in disqualification from that class. The rider/driver must not remount in the ring.*

***HANDY HINT:*** *exhibitors in such circumstances should be strongly encouraged to seek First Aid at the event.*

**EXHIBITING OF BROODMARES:** There has been some confusion regarding mares that have foaled in the current season, but their foals have been weaned by the time of some of the later shows. To clarify that these mares are eligible to be shown without their foal at foot, but are still classed as broodmares, Show Regulation 29 now reads:

**29** *A broodmare is a mare which has foaled, has a foal at foot or is to foal in the current breeding season, prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> July.*

**PLAITING:** There appears to be some confusion relating to the plaiting of Welsh exhibits at shows. For clarification, the following regulations apply:

At shows conducted by the WPCSA all exhibits shown in led and ridden Welsh classes must be shown unplaited. This does not include Part Welsh.

At agricultural and other horse shows that state they are being judges under WPCSA show regulations, exhibits in led and ridden Welsh classes must be unplaited. However, at all other shows where the WPCSA has no jurisdiction, this rule cannot be enforced. At these shows plaited exhibits should not be penalised.

**PREPARATION PRIOR TO AN EVENT:** If possible, try to have a chat with your steward prior to the events beginning, to ensure they are aware of how you wish to conduct your ring, including workouts. Not all stewards are experienced and the day will run more smoothly if they are aware of your requirements.

Please make sure you either refer to a copy of the schedule or ask your steward which class is entering the ring prior to commencing judging. This helps you prepare and enables you to identify animals which have come into the wrong class or have presented wearing the incorrect gear e.g.

- *In children's events, dressage whips and spurs are not permitted. Hacking canes and crops are acceptable. A snaffle bit only may be used. (rule 61 Show Regulations)*

In this example a child who rides into the ring with incorrect gear should be asked to temporarily leave the ring to have it replaced/removed. Better to fix the problem before the class commences than have your day spoiled by complaints!

- *Length of whips is not to exceed 75 centimeters, excluding tails in all classes excluding dressage. (rule 62 Show Regulations)*

***HANDY HINT:*** *If you or your steward notices that a whip is longer than allowed, stewards may offer to hold the whip during the class, and return it to the exhibitor at the end of the class.*

***HANDY HINT:*** *please ensure you are familiar with regulations regarding – Approved helmets, use of spurs, regulations regarding colts being bitted from the age of two years and plaiting regulations. Have a brief chat with your steward prior to the class to note these and other regulations regarding approved gear and equipment.*

**WELFARE OF EXHIBITS:** With the unusually lush growth over the summer this season, more animals are likely to present for their class with foot problems. Judge's Regulation 30 states: *A judge may refuse to judge any exhibit they consider to be unsound.*

Refer also to Show Regulations 45 & 48 regarding welfare of exhibits.

In this situation, if you suspect an animal in your ring is unsound, you (or your steward at your request) may have a quiet word with the exhibitor stating that, in your opinion, their pony/cob is uneven. This gives them the option to leave the ring prior to judging.

**JUDGES' ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE:** One of the requirements for members expressing interest in attending a Judge's Assessment to apply for the Judge's Panel is - They must complete two probationary Judging appointments. A form from the National Office is supplied to the overseeing Judge by the probationary Judge. This form should be filled in by the overseeing Judge and posted to the National Office. All reports are held in confidence in the office. Your assistance to encourage members to complete the Judge's Assessment requirements is much appreciated.

**INSPECTOR:** at the April 2011 Committee of Management meeting the decision was made amend the judges rule regarding inspectors, the new ruling will permit all judges to inspect all sections of ponies.

*If you have any suggestions or issues you would like clarified in the next newsletter please contact the National Office.*

Thank you

*Helen Slee*

*Judges' Coordinator  
On behalf of the Committee of Management  
WP&CS of Australia Inc.*