

Royal Agricultural Society

RAS Remit Eight - Equestrian – Weights in Saddle Hunter Section

Name of Proposing Organisation/Association/District:
Egmont A & P Show
Contact details
Helena McLeod Committee Member Phone: 022 019 8471
Remit
Saddle Hunters should be Defined by Weights not Heights
Current Rules
CDE 5 Hacks, Saddle Hunters, Riding Horse, Cobs etc. – Height Division (a) All equestrian classes shall be offered in height divisions.
MSS 2.1 (j) Minimum Standard Qualifying Sections for Schedule - Saddle Hunters over 148cm
Class xxx Novice Saddle Hunter, 0-2 Wins Class xxx Novice Saddle Hunter, 1-5 Wins Champion & Reserve Champion Novice Saddle Hunter Class xxx Novice Paced & Mannered Saddle Hunter 0-5 wins Class xxx Open Saddle Hunter, over 148cm not exceeding 163cm Class xxx Open Saddle Hunter, Over 163cm Class xxx Open Lady's Saddle Hunter (Lady or Gentleman Rider) Class xxx Open Gentleman's Saddle Hunter (Lady or Gentleman Rider) Champion & Reserve Open Saddle Hunter Class xxx Open Paced & Mannered Saddle Hunter OR Class xxx Open Saddle Hunter – Best Paces to be Judged Class xxx Open Saddle Hunter – Best Manners to be Judged
Proposed Change
CDE 5 Remove Saddle Hunters from this Rule (a) Remove (but shows /events may within each height division offer additional classes by further splitting the standard schedule heights or by using weights) and the example that follows (a) (iv) remove Saddle Hunters
New Rule
CDE 5 (b) Saddle Hunters over 148cm shall be offered in weight divisions (i) Lightweight Saddle Hunter (ii) Heavyweight Saddle Hunter

MSS 2.1 (j) Minimum Standard Qualifying Sections for Schedule - Saddle Hunters over 148cm

Class xxx Novice Saddle Hunter, 0-2 Wins

Class xxx Novice Saddle Hunter, 1-5 Wins

Champion & Reserve Champion Novice Saddle Hunter

Class xxx Novice Paced & Mannered Saddle Hunter 0-5 wins

Class xxx Open Lightweight Saddle Hunter, over 148cm not exceeding 163cm

Class xxx Open Lightweight Saddle Hunter, Over 163cm

Class xxx Open Lightweight Lady's Saddle Hunter (Lady or Gentleman Rider)

Champion & Reserve Open Lightweight Saddle Hunter

Class xxx Open Heavyweight Saddle Hunter, over 148cm Not exceeding 163cm

Class xxx Open Heavyweight Saddle Hunter, over 163cm

Class xxx Open Heavyweight Gentleman's Saddle Hunter (Lady or Gentleman Rider)

Champion & Reserve Open Heavyweight Saddle Hunter

Class xxx Open Paced & Mannered Saddle Hunter

OR

Class xxx Open Saddle Hunter – Best Paces to be Judged

Class xxx Open Saddle Hunter – Best Manners to be Judged

Shows still have the option, after offering the minimum schedule of classes to combine classes if not sufficient entries on the day.

To be added to Definition of a Saddle Hunter on Page 63.

Lightweight Saddle Hunters are usually considered lady's hunters and can have up to 9" of bone below the knee.

Heavyweight Saddle Hunters should move well, have great courage, sagacity and power with the ability to really cover the ground. 9" and above of bone below the knee.

Rationale

Research shows that the competitors would prefer saddle hunters to be defined by weight. Although the qualities of a saddle hunter such as having substance, being handsome rather than beautiful with strong easy paces should apply to both lightweights and heavyweights, there is a significant difference in appearance between these two types.

Not all small hunters are lightweights and not all tall hunters are heavyweights.

Competitors want to be able to show their horse off to the best of its abilities, the Riding Horse section was introduced to help cater for horses that were difficult to classify. Dividing hunters into weights rather than heights will give competitors more freedom to put their horses up against similar animals.

It is generally felt between competitors that you need to be the biggest in the class and the tall lightweights are currently overshadowed by the heavier bred horse, and moving out of saddle hunters to the Riding Horse section. The small height hunter classes are generally poorly supported. In order for NZ to gain a true type of hunter and a true type of Riding Horse, competitors need to be able to have the ability to parade their animals with their best fit against the definitions and their horses' qualities.

Also of note is that HOY Title winning Riding Horses are not invited to compete at Werribee as Australia does not recognise the section. Bringing weights into hunters will give more opportunity for any lightweight hunters that had moved to Riding Horse to compete as Lightweight Hunters and have the opportunity to represent NZ if that is their ambition.

Park Hack/Small Hack & Hack/Large Hack defined by height currently have separate Champions. Therefore Saddle Hunters defined by weights should also have separate Champions

Refer to attached Survey Results conducted in January 2019.

Contra

Horses may switch between weights during the season. This should not be seen as a negative as the horses are still competing within their nominated Saddle Hunter section.

A negative for shows is another set of Champion/Reserve Sashes as set out in the suggested minimum schedule. A positive to this, is potentially more entries and happy competitors.

Below are the results of a Survey sent around the showing community, 152 of these responses were received in the first 24 hours. Of the 177 Responses, 160 people are actively riding and showing horses or ponies in NZ.

A staggering 76% of people who responded to the survey, feel that the Saddle Hunter section would be better defined by Weights instead of Heights

