



WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES And PROSPECTIVE JUDGES Of WELSH BRED PONIES, COBS and PARTBREDS.

JUDGE CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

South Island JUDGES CONVENER

Philip Peter

Email: flatstick@xtra.co.nz

North Island JUDGES CONVENER

Katrina Bowditch

Email: kbowditch77@gmail.com

Contact details are also on the Website and in the Society's Newsletter.

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Website: www.welshponyandcob.co.nz

Current from September 2025

INFOMATION

Anyone interested in becoming a listed Welsh Pony and Cob Society of New Zealand judge is welcome to contact the Judge Convener of their Island and complete the required nomination form, also supply details of any experience with the Welsh Breed and/or RAS Grading.

Being assessed is entirely voluntary and no claims can be made for any expenses incurred.

The Judge Convenor will organise where and when the assessment will take place. Once permission has been granted from the Show concerned the Judge Convenor will communicate with the Listed Judge and the Prospective judge to finalise arrangements. The Listed Judge appointed by the Show concerned will judge as usual and decide their placing without being influence by the Judge being assessed, the Prospective judge will then be asked for their opinion. The discussion should not hold up the exhibitors or the running of the classes.

If you are interested in becoming a Judge for the WP&CSNZ please contact the Judges Convener in your Island.

The WPCSNZ Council may appoint a person to the Judges List, and remove a person from the Judges List.

A person who accepts to go onto the List of Judges agrees to be bound by the Judges Conduct and Etiquette Rules and the Regulations of the Society.

JUDGING

The purpose of Judging is to place the animals in each class in order of merit subject to breed requirements, conformation, quality and soundness. Apart from their beauty, the Welsh breeds are noted for strength and working ability therefore Judges will probably pay particular attention to characteristics illustrating that each animal can fulfil the purpose for which it is bred.

At least once every three years, a judge must attend a Judges Seminar run under the Society's auspices. Failure to do so could lead to the judge being removed from the List of Judges.

You must attend an annual Zoom Judges' Workshop when applicable, in addition to a WPCSNZ Judges Seminar.

The WPCSNZ Council may at any time remove a person from the List of Judges if that person has, in the Society's opinion, not observed these regulations of the Society or their conduct is in any respect not in the best interest of the Society.

Where possible a Judge should accept at least one Judging appointment per year.

CONDUCT OF APPROVED JUDGES

A Judge knows that his/her integrity is beyond question so through his/her action he/she should make sure that it is seen to be the case.

From the time of arrival on a Showground, or where staying the night before, the Judges act in an official capacity. Except for necessary contact with Show Officials they are as reserved and impersonal with the general public and exhibitors as is socially acceptable, and are concerned only with seeing animals that may come before them in the ring. Judges do not discuss the relative merits of any animal shown except as required by their official duty.

Their conduct during their visit to a Show upholds the dignity and reputation for integrity of the Society of which they are Approved Judges.

A Judge should remember that it is a great honour to be invited to Judge at a show. He/she should reply promptly to the invitation and, having made the commitment, should honour it. If you find that you are, at short notice, unable to officiate, please inform the show secretary immediately, suggesting another Judge if possible.

A Judge who feels unable to Judge any class in the schedule should inform the show secretary well in advance of the show.

Judges are responsible for their own expenses unless offers are made by the Show concerned.

From the date of acceptance of an appointment, a judge must not accept hospitality from an exhibitor until after the conclusion of the event.

IMPARTIALITY - JUDGES

A Judge must not express their views on specific animals/exhibitors/Judges or their judgement via any form of social media via the Internet.

A judge should not discuss any exhibitor's animal's faults with stewards or other competitors.

It should be remembered that each competitor pays the same entry fee and therefore merits the courtesy of having his/her Pony/Cob given the full attention of the Judge at all times.

It is the Pony/Cob only that is being judged on the day

Please also be aware you should never be seen referring to the catalogue of exhibitors and exhibits. You need to be seen to be impartial.

RING ETIQUETTE

A Judge should have presence in the ring and be seen to have full control in readiness of any situation that may occur while judging.

While conducting a ring, the safety of the competitors, spectators, stewards /marshallers must be the judge's first consideration.

If the judge, steward or ringmaster considers an exhibit to be dangerous or acting in a manner that is disruptive they may request that the exhibit is removed from the ring after issuing one prior warning.

A judge may order any person from the ring for improper conduct or any other proper cause.

Where an unruly animal is likely to cause an accident, the Judge has the power to ask that the animal leaves the ring.

A Judge must take firm action against any exhibit whose performance is enhanced /potentially enhanced by the use of any artificial aids or outside assistance. Plastic bags, excessive and abnormal use of whips, noise producing objects are all deemed to be artificial aids. Such exhibits may be dismissed from the class, and such action will be fully supported by the Society. The incident must be reported to the WPCSNZ Judges Convenor.

Exhibitors must not remove their ponies from the Ring during judging, without the Judge's permission. The class ends when the Judge requests the class to be dismissed.

GENERAL

JUDGES A Judge knows that his/her integrity is beyond question so through his/her action he/she should make sure that it is seen to be the
A Judge must be unbiased and fair.

The judge should be familiar with the rules and recommendations made by the Show Organisers for the Show they are judging at and be aware of the RAS rules when judging Ridden Welsh Classes at an A & P Show.

Because Judges are representing both themselves and the Society they should always be punctual and look their best.

Judges should present themselves to the Show Secretary at least half an hour before the first class.

It is the Judge who sets and maintains the standards of the ring.

A courteous manner is expected at all times, even under provocation. Judges must avoid judging the same Section in a local area more than once during a season. A local area is defined as a 200 kilometres radius from the Showground.

A Judge should not accept any hospitality from an exhibitor during a show until judging is completed.

A Judge should avoid meeting exhibitors, their helpers and Ponies or Cobs, on the day of the show prior to entering the show ring in which he/she is to Judge.

A Judge should not refer to the show catalogue during the Show.

Before judging commences, discussion with the ring Steward should take place regarding the procedure to be adopted in the ring; where to stand the Ponies/Cobs with the line up on the near side of the first placed animal.

Schedules should be carefully studied beforehand, noting the number of rosettes to be awarded, special awards.

A Judge should not call any exhibitor by his/her name in the ring and must remain completely detached.

No social conversation should take place. Instructions to exhibitors generally should be relayed through the ring Steward.

Judges should be smartly dressed at all times during the show. Hands in pockets while judging should be actively discouraged.

All Judges should wear a hat while judging. Judges should neither smoke nor use a mobile phone whilst in the ring.

Judges are asked to consider very carefully the placing of over-fat animals in the show ring so that the showing of such animals is discouraged.

In the show ring, Judges are empowered to Judge according to personal preference.

A Judge must desist from judging if they are not medically /physically/mentally fit.

Judges should present rosettes unless a sponsor is requested to do so

Be cautious and discreet in any remarks made after judging is over whilst remaining open to questions from exhibitors who are entitled to ask for reasons for the placing of their animal after the class.

It is recommended the judge does not touch the exhibit while judging especially does not feel for faults in conformation or dirt in a turnout class. If you can't see it it is not that bad.

Each exhibit should be treated and viewed exactly the same, it is a real no no to point out or comment on what you think a fault is, treat each exhibitor with respect and never address them by name.

Be very careful of making any comments at any time in the ring as they can be taken out of context and used against you.

Please ensure that it is apparent to exhibitors and spectators that you, the judge, are determining all awards and that all discussions do not influence your decision.

RING CONDUCT

Where an unruly animal is likely to cause an accident, the Judge has the power to ask that the animal leaves the ring.

Exhibitors must not remove their ponies from the Ring during judging, without the Judge's permission. The class ends when the Judge requests the class to be dismissed.

Exhibitors must not show an animal under a Judge who has or has had a financial interest in that particular exhibit, stud fee excluded, (the exhibitor being the owner, lessee or person producing and/or showing the animal).

A Judge may not adjudicate a pony which, to the Judge's knowledge, was a pony bred, sold, leased or produced by the Judge or his immediate family within a year of the animals transfer with the Society . If a Judge has reasonable grounds for belief that any part of this rule is being contravened he/she must ask the exhibitor to leave the ring and the exhibitor must withdraw.

A judge cannot adjudicate in any class in which immediate members of his family are competing. A judge cannot judge a progeny group sired by a stallion or out of a mare owned by the judge.

A Judge cannot judge an exhibit in hand, under saddle or in harness;

- which he or his immediate family has bred.
- where the judge or his immediate family have been rewarded in cash or kind for instruction** in the previous 6 months. **excludes group instructions.
- owned, produced or driven by a person who they or their immediate family have or had a Business / Financial Relationship/Partnership (excluding stud fees) within the previous 6 months. (Business partnerships include but are not limited to current leases, joint memberships or ownership of an animal.)
- which they or a member of their immediate family sold to the exhibitor in the 6 months preceding the show or event.
- which they or a member of their immediate family have had or have a financial interest in during the previous 6 months.
- produced, ridden or driven by a person who has carried out those duties for the judge in the previous 6 months.
- owned by an exhibitor for whom he/she has produced exhibits in the previous 6 months.
- Under a judge where the exhibitor has produced an exhibit for the judge for the purpose of showing, in the preceding 6 months.
- if there is a current lease of a horse in place between the judge and the exhibitor.

The Judge's decision is final in all cases.

Substitution of handlers in Welsh classes is not permitted without the permission of the Judge.

Finally just a reminder of the procedure when judging Championships: The 1st place getters from the classes listed in the catalogue come in for judging and the 2nd place getters are asked to stand by. Once the Champion has been called forward the exhibit that was 2nd to it comes into the ring and is judged along with the remaining 1sts for the Reserve. The Champion and Reserve Exhibits stand together and are sashed with the Champion being sashed first.

PROBATIONARY JUDGE

The WPCSNZ Judges Convenor will contact the Show, the Shows Judge and the Probationary Judge to organise a placement for the Probationary Judge

Probationary judging appointments are to be undertaken at Welsh Breed Shows/Shows with Welsh Classes containing all sections and sufficient entries.

The probationary judge does not need to agree with all ring placing decisions but should be able to justify his/her decision and not miss any important issues that should influence the order of exhibits. These Probationary Judging appointments should be viewed as an educational experience. It is recommended that the Probationary Judge records his/her results, maybe with notes, and that discussion is after the ribbons have been awarded.

Please ensure that the Probationary Judge understands that Type is the most important thing to look for when judging a Welsh Pony and Cob that there is no Standard of Excellence for Part Welsh. While we can expect our judges to have a good knowledge of the Welsh pure and partbred exhibits there is more to it than; There are expectations of protocols and procedures in the Show ring. So many of the exhibitors are very well informed in the established ring craft that if a judge does not it can cause the exhibitors to lose confidence in the decisions being made..

Please ensure that it is apparent to exhibitors and spectators that you, the judge, are determining all awards and that all discussions do not influence your decision.

GENERAL SHOWING RULES.

Trimming For Shows

The Welsh Breeds are a Native Breed and too much trimming and pulling detracts from their native characteristics. Pure bred animals registered in Sections A, B, C, D should be shown in as natural a state as possible, manes and tails should not be plaited with the exception of an optional single plait behind the ear.

All animals including foals should not be body clipped for showing purposes. Long hair under the jaw line and those protruding from the ears may be trimmed off leaving as natural a line as possible.

Muzzle hair/whiskers must not be trimmed.

If the mane and tail are very thick, they can be discreetly thinned to show off the top line and the hindquarters. The tail should look natural and should not be "banged" (leveled off square).

However we do make exceptions for Welsh Ponies and Cobs 3 years and over whom are ridden or driven, these may be clipped, trimmed and plaited in accordance with the turnout requirements for the competition they compete in and should not be penalized if shown In-Hand on the same day.

Artificial changes to the original markings of an animal as recorded on the Registration Paper will not be allowed.

Welsh Part-Bred animals should preferably be plaited but this is optional.

Branding

The Society has no objection to Ponies and Cobs being branded and this should not be detrimental to animals in the show.

Age

Age is calculated from 1st August in the year of birth.

Soundness

If a Pony/Cob entered in a class is, in the opinion of the Judge, unsound, the Judge shall, at his/her discretion, require the exhibitor to withdraw the animal from that class or place it at the end of the line. The Judge's decision in this matter is final.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IN HAND CLASSES

Refer to and abide by the rules of the Show entered

Stallions and Colts

In the interest of safety all colts and stallions two years old or over should be suitably bitted and led by a capable handler and should wear an "S" badge on the bridle. Refer to and abide by the rules of the Show entered

Mares

Brood Mares must be 4 years old or over with foal at foot or have produced a foal in the current year. Foals must accompany their dams into the ring or a veterinary certificate justifying the absence of the foal be produced on request.

Dry mare for the purpose of showing is a mare that has not produced a foal and will not produce a foal in the current year.

Foals

Mares with Foals under 3 weeks of age should not be exhibited.

Foals to be shown in a halter or leather head collar.

Three year old fillies with foals at foot should not be shown in a broodmare class.

In-Hand Tack

Purebred Youngstock may be shown in a white webbing or rope show halter, leather show halter or show bridle.

Partbred Youngstock may be shown in a leather head collar, leather show halter, or leather show bridle.

Purebred Mares/Geldings four years old or over may be shown in a white webbing or rope show halter, leather head collar, leather show bridle or leather riding bridle.

Partbred Mares/Geldings four years old or over may be shown in a leather head collar, leather show bridle or leather riding bridle.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RIDDEN CLASSES

Welsh – Lead Rein A lead rein pony must have an unquestionable temperament and disposition. It should have a good length of stride at the walk and trot but the pony's action should suit the child at its current stage of riding development. Unfortunately, this criterion is often forgotten. Some older, more experience riders can cope with a longer stride while a raw beginner simply cannot. In a leading rein class, the pony should walk at a medium pace and never overtrot, to prevent all parties becoming unbalanced.

Tension is not a good sign and this is often associated with a tight lead rein, a short, stilted gait and serious faces. The pony should respond to the rein if the rider is sufficiently competent to use the aid correctly. The paces should be rhythmical and easy. The head must be carried correctly and still.

Nothing looks worse than a pony, which is not happy with its mouth and shakes its head or reefs the jockey's hands forward as a result.

Lastly, all lead rein ponies should be able to halt without fuss and STAND quietly at all times when required. It stands to reason that the manners of the pony should be impeccable.

Welsh - First Ridden First ridden Welsh ponies are well-trained Welsh pony or cob types, suitable for children moving up from a lead rein, who can already ride independently without constant guidance. These ponies are chosen for their calm temperament, responsive yet safe snaffle mouth, and ability to maintain a steady rhythm, but they are not "kick-along" types.

If a pony does not go well, no matter how good a type it is it should not stand up the line. A relaxed partnership should exist between rider and pony. They should be going as one, confident, carefree and happy. The pace should be rhythmical and easy. The stride should be appropriate for the size of the child. The head should be carried correctly in a rounded frame and still.

Welsh - Open Ridden Registered Welsh Section A, B, C, or D Purebreds, or Welsh Partbreds are judged on their;

Ridden Performance: How well the pony performs its required ridden tasks.

Manners: The pony's temperament and behaviour under saddle.

Suitability: The pony's suitability as a ridden mount.

STANDARD of EXCELLENCE

Animals registered in Sections A, B, C, D of the WPCSNZ Stud Book must be judged in accordance with the breed description contained within the Stud Book.

WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY

Not exceeding 12 hands high (122cm) Section A of the Stud Book Adopted at a Special Meeting of Members of the Society held at Shrewsbury on October 8, 1935

General Character; Hardy, Spirited and Pony-like.

- Colour; any colour except piebald and skewbald.
 - Head; small, clean-cut, well set on and tapering to the muzzle.
 - Eyes; bold.
 - Ears; well placed, small and pointed, well up on the head, proportionately close.
 - Nostrils; prominent and open.
 - Jaws and throat; clean and finely cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw.
 - Neck; lengthy, well carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions. Shoulder; long and sloping and well back.
 - Withers moderately fine, but not 'knifey'.
 - The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body.
 - Forelegs Set square and true and not tied in at the elbows.
 - Long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below knee,
 - Pasterns of proportionate slope and length.
 - Feet well shaped and round, hoofs dense.
 - Back and Loins Muscular, strong and well coupled.
 - Girth Deep. Ribs well sprung. Hind quarters Lengthy and fine. Not cobby, ragged or goose rumped.
 - Tail well set on and carried gaily.
 - Hind Legs; Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards.
 - The hind leg not to be too bent.
 - The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint.
 - Pasterns proportionate slope and length.
 - Feet well shaped hoofs dense.
 - Action Quick, free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front.
 - Hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage and well under the body
-

THE WELSH PONY

Not exceeding 13.2 hands high (137cm) Section B of the Stud Book

The general description of ponies in Section A of the Stud Book is applicable to those in Section 'B', but more particularly the Section 'B' Pony shall be described as a riding pony, with quality riding action, adequate bone and substance, hardiness and constitution and with pony character.

Sections C and D of the Stud Book respectively adopted at the Annual General Meeting of members of the Society held in the Royal Welsh Show yard at Monmouth, on Tuesday July 22nd, 1937. (Incorporating amendments made at the Annual General Meeting held on December 8, 1951).

WELSH PONY OF COB TYPE

Not exceeding 13.2hh Section C of the Stud Book

General Character

The Welsh Pony of Cob Type is a stronger counterpart of the Welsh Pony, with Cob blood.

WELSH COB

The height should exceed 13.2hh, no upper limit Section D of the Stud Book

General Character: Strong, hardy and active, with pony character and as much substance as possible.

- Colour; any colour except piebald and skewbald.
- Head Full of quality and pony character. A coarse head and Roman nose are most objectionable.
- Eyes bold, prominent and set widely apart.
- Ears neat and well set.
- Neck; Lengthy, well carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions.
- Shoulders strong but well laid back.
- Forelegs; set square and true, and not tied in at the elbows.
- Long, strong forearm.
- Knees well developed with abundance of bone below them.
- Pasterns of proportionate slope and length.
- Feet well shaped. Hoofs dense.
- When in the rough a moderate quantity of silky feather is not objected to but coarse, wiry hair is a definite objection.
- Middlepiece; back and loins muscular, strong and well-coupled.
- Deep through the heart and well-ribbed up.
- Hind Quarters; lengthy and strong, ragged or drooping quarters are objectionable.
- Tail well-set on.
- Hind Legs second thighs, strong and muscular.
- Hocks large, flat and clean, with points prominent, turning neither inwards nor outwards.
- The hind legs must not be too bent and the hocks not set behind a line falling from the point of the fetlock joint
- Pasterns of proportionate slope and length.
- Feet well-shaped. Hoofs dense
- Action free, true and forcible.
- The knee should be bent and the whole foreleg should be extended straight from the shoulder and as far forward as possible in the trot.
- Hocks flexed under the body with straight and powerful leverage

PARTBRED

As the name suggests the exhibit has some Welsh blood so the judge is asked to first and foremost look at what the Welsh breed has contributed to the exhibit they are judging then consider the exhibit overall. There is no height restriction for part bred ponies or cobs.

There is no Standard of Excellence for Part Welsh.

It is preferred some Welsh characteristic be obvious.
