

Equestrian Australia Show Horse Committee – Rule Review
(For implementation 1 JANUARY 2026)

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
1.1.19	Outside Assistance	Clarification	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <p>Any outside assistance or intervention, including coaching by voice, signs, etc, may result in elimination. Any outside assistance or intervention in the final marshalling and competition area including coaching by voice, signs etc, and/or gear alterations after gear check is not permitted and may result in elimination of the horse and rider combination.</p> <p>With the exception of:</p> <p>Removal of spurs</p> <p>Dropping of whip</p> <p>Tightening of girth.</p> <p>Availability of fluids</p>

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1.6.2	A Recorded Warning Card may be imposed for	To align with the recent changes (from August 2025) to EA Show Horse Yellow Warning Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to follow a direction of an Official relating to compliance with these rules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All Serious infringements involving Abuse of horse, Abuse of an Official or failure to follow a direction relating to compliance with these Rules must incur a Yellow Warning Card. Only EA approved Officials have the authority to issue a Recorded Warning Card at an event. An Official for the purpose of issuing a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning Card may be any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An FEI or National accredited Steward • An EA Technical Delegate • An EA State or National Judge • State delegate to the EA National Show Horse Committee • EA National Show Horse Committee Chair <p align="center">And in conjunction with the State Delegate and whilst acting in an official capacity at the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication Control Officer at the event • Measurers at the event. • Ring Stewards at the event. • Gear Checkers at the event
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2.2.1	2.2 Show Hunter and Childs/Junior Classes – Hack, Galloway, and Pony 2.2.1 Definition	Update	<p>2.2 Show Hunter and Childs/Junior Classes – Hack, Galloway, and Pony</p> <p>2.2.1 Definition</p> <p>The Show Hunter should have more substance without coarseness. It should display good substantial bone without being unduly fine. It should be of middleweight/heavy weight but not unduly heavy. The Show Hunter must have quality. It should display boldness. The Show Hunter must also display a steady and reliable temperament. It may be of any colour. The Show Hunter must be of good conformation and soundness. It should have a kind, bold eye, a good length of rein, a strong well-muscled back and hindquarter and a deep girth. It should have a good length of forearm and be shorter in the cannon strength and action. The knee should be flat and the hocks strong and clean. The Show Hunter in competition is not required to jump other than in Working Hunter Events. A competitor must choose to enter in classes as either a Show Hunter or a Show horse, but not enter both.</p>
2.2.2	Show Horse and Show Hunter	Update	<p>2.2.2 Show Horse and Show Hunter</p> <p>(a) A horse or pony must be exhibited in either the Show Horse division or the Show Hunter division for the duration of a calendar year (1 January to 31 December).</p> <p>(b) Once a horse or pony has competed in any EA-affiliated event within that year as a Show Horse or Show Hunter, it may not change divisions for the remainder of that calendar year.</p> <p>(c) This restriction applies to all EA-affiliated competitions, including qualifying events for State Horse of the Year, National Show Horse Championships, and other EA-sanctioned shows.</p> <p>(d) The horse or pony may change divisions at the beginning of a new calendar year, provided it has not competed in the previous division during that new year</p>

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2.3.2.1	First Ridden Show/Show Hunter Pony	Correction	First Ridden Ponies are not to be cantered on the circle. The rider may carry a whip or cane of length not exceeding 75cm 45cm .
3.1	Dress, Saddlery and Equipment – Show Horse	Correction	Whips/Canes - Must not exceed 75cm including the tassel (excluding in work area), first ridden must not exceed 45cm including the tassel
3.2	Dress, Saddlery and Equipment – Show Hunter	Correction	Whips/Canes - Must not exceed 75cm including the tassel (excluding in work area), first ridden must not exceed 45cm including the tassel

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3.8	Gear	Updates	<p>3.8 Gear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Correctly fitted gear is the primary consideration b) Saddle should be of good quality leather which is supple and clean and has sound stitching. A straight flapped show saddle type is preferred (dressage type) is desirable – with 2 or 3 girth straps which are concealed (not long points). External knee blocks are not desirable. Stirrup irons should not have rubbers c) A discreet natural sheepskin saddle cloth is acceptable d) Bridle should be double or snaffle (snaffle is acceptable for riders under 12 years), the same colour as the saddle, supple, of good quality leather. Stitching on noseband and brow band optional. No coloured browbands
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3.15	Saddle and Saddlecloths	Correction	A fully mounted Show Dressage type (including English style Dressage and all-purpose) saddle of traditional or treeless construction is compulsory and may be used with or without a saddlecloth. A crupper may be worn by ponies. Numnah colour is optional.
4.1	Ground Jury	Update	<p>The Ground Jury consists of the judges of the event. The Ground Jury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) must be drawn from the current EA Judges list b) may include suitably accredited visiting overseas judges with the approval of the EA National Show Horse Committee <p>The President of the Ground Jury should be the highest accredited judge during the event.</p>
5.9.3	Judge Appointment Form	Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any State Horse of the Year or Royal Show or Southern Cross Show Horse Spectacular judging positions the selected judge has either accepted or judged at during the calendar year

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5.9.1	5.9 To Judge State Horse of the Year & 5.9.1 Judge Allocation - Local	Updates	<p>5.9.1 Judge Allocation - Local</p> <p>A maximum of two judges from any one state are permitted.</p> <p>5.9.1.1 Due to special circumstances, for example a pandemic, National or State Emergency, or if for whatever reason State borders are closed, a State may be permitted to source their judges from within their own State or from a State not effected by closure, upon request to the National Show Horse Committee</p> <p>A State may request approval from the EA National Show Horse Committee to appoint an additional judge from within their own state, taking financial considerations into account.</p>
5.9.3	5.9 To Judge State Horse of the Year & 5.9.3 Judge Appointment Form	Updates	<p>5.9.3 Judge Appointment Form</p> <p>Selected Judges will need to be sent a Judging Form from EA National Office to complete and will be asked to provide details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any actual or perceived conflicts of interest • Any State Horse of the Year or Royal Show or Southern Cross Show Horse Spectacular judging positions the selected judge has either accepted or judged at during the calendar year • Any horse (including rider classes) that the selected judge has qualified to compete at the Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championships in the same calendar year. Note – if the selected judge has qualified a horse in a particular class, they will be deemed ineligible to judge that class at any State Horse of Year. • Any horse, where the selected judge is the competitor (see definition of competitor) in which they anticipate competing at their State Horse of the Year Championships. • Failure to declare any or all the above points may result in being removed as a judge.

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6.12.3	Judge Selection – Australasian Championships	Update	A judge appointed to the Australasian Show Horse and Rider Championships must not have judged Show Horse/Show Hunter classes, Rider classes, Child's classes, First Ridden, or Leading Rein classes at a State Horse of the Year, New Zealand Horse of the Year or any Australian Royal Show in the current year. Nor have judged at the ASH&RC in the preceding 35 years.
6.15		Correction	Winner, a runner-up and third place getter will be awarded in each class.
6.17	Conflict of Interest	Update	Conflict of Interest The Australasian Horse and Rider Championship Program must refer to the EA Conflict of Interest policy and any COI or any perceived COI must be declared.