



RULE BOOK

2017

The Veteran Horse Society
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All competitors/members are to abide by Veteran Horse Society rules at all times.



The Veteran Horse Society
5-6 Priory Street,
Cardigan
SA43 1BX
01239 881300

The Veteran Horse Society Supreme Finals 2017
1st October 2017

The National Veteran Open Championships 2017
29th September – 1st October 2017

*Arena UK, Allington Lane, Allington
Grantham, Lincs NG32 2EF*

GENERAL RULES

1. Horses and ponies shown in-hand or ridden must be 15 years old or over.
2. All horses and ponies must be in a sound and healthy condition. Any veteran showing signs of distress or lameness will be asked to leave the ring.
3. The Society does not accept any liability for any accident, injury, loss, damage or illness to any riders, handlers, spectators, horses, ponies or to any property whatsoever and howsoever caused.
4. The Director of the Society, Julianne Aston, reserves the right to amend rules/classes at her discretion. All changes will be advertised on the website. Members are to understand and familiarise themselves with the rules and to regularly check the website for updates.
5. All membership, showing and dressage cards will be signed by the VHS Secretary and shall remain the property and copyright of the Veteran Horse Society.
6. Equine passports must always accompany the horse/pony when travelling and competing and must be produced on request.
7. All personal membership will run from 1st January to 31st December.
8. Show & Dressage Cards run from 1st October for the coming year. 1st October - 30th September
9. All membership/registration fees are non-refundable.
10. Please be aware that dope testing may take place at any show affiliated to VHS. The rules and policies of the show will take precedence over VHS rules.
11. Members are advised to have a personal and public liability Insurance cover.
12. Excessive use of whips/showing canes or misuse of any equipment will result in immediate exclusion from the show ring. Membership will be revoked with immediate effect and no refund will be made.
13. Remedial shoeing is permitted and will not be penalised, providing the horse/pony is sound.

WELFARE

1. The Judge will ask the competitor to leave the ring should the welfare of the veteran be compromised.
2. In extreme heat, the Judge may stop the class at any point. It is advised that in extremely hot conditions, the veteran may be offered natural cover in the ring if this is available and competitors may remove their jackets, provided they have a shirt sleeve of at least elbow length. In heat of 35 degrees or more it is expected that the Judge may cancel the class for the welfare of the veterans. This however, is by decision of the Judge on the day.
3. If any horse is seen to have welfare issues, Judges must consider suspending the class if imminent harm is feared and ask for the immediate attendance of Julianne Aston. In all other situations Judges must report this immediately after the show/class has finished to Julianne Aston.

SHOWING GUIDELINES

1. All show dates will be advertised on the Veteran Horse Society's website.
2. Showing registration will run from 1st October to 30th September of each year
3. All juniors will require a person with parental responsibility signature on their membership application/ renewal.
4. Lead rein riders (3-9 years of age). No child under 3 years old may compete. Lead rein riders are not to have attained their 10th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
5. Juniors riders/handlers (16 years and under). Handlers **must** be competent enough to handle the veteran without assistance. Riders/handlers not to have attained their 17th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
6. All juniors in the ridden section must be capable of walk, trot and canter.

7. The person with parental responsibility of any child on a first ridden pony not wishing to take part in the group canter will be expected to inform the Steward before the class begins.
8. Riders/handlers of stallions must have attained their 16th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
9. All riders/handlers are to be a suitable size and weight for the veteran.
10. Mares in foal or with foals at foot are not permitted to compete.
11. Members and non-members must adhere to VHS rules for all VHS affiliated classes.
12. Competitors must be Amateurs - Horse/ponies must be produced and shown by a competitor who has not been involved with professionally producing for the show ring at any time, past or present. The only exception to this rule is in the VHS Open Class Series.
The VHS definition of a Professional Showing Producer/Rider/Handler: A person who produces (including preparation and schooling), rides or handles equines for the show ring for financial gain. A person who earns finances from a general equine career does not apply i.e. riding school, livery, instructor etc.
13. Riders/handlers may not exhibit under any judge who has, in the past 3 years, had financial interest in that equine, or any other equine belonging to the rider/handler. This includes producing, riding, schooling, instructing, livery, selling, buying, breeding etc.
14. Riders/handlers may not knowingly exhibit a horse/pony which has been bred by the Judge.
15. Late entries will not be allowed into the ring once the initial order to trot has been given.
16. Competitors may not leave or return to the show ring without the Judge's/Steward's permission. Where a competitor has been granted permission to leave the ring, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure they return before final judging. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
17. Any fall of horse and/or rider/handler will result in disqualification.
18. Mobile phones are not permitted in the show ring.
19. Judges must refrain from physical contact with any horse or rider during judging.
20. The Judge's decision is final. Confrontation with a judge in or outside the ring is strictly forbidden and will result in disciplinary action and may lead to membership being permanently revoked. This also includes all social media forums and chat rooms.

SHOWING GUIDELINES (HORSES and PONIES)

1. Horses/ponies that have suffered injuries in the past resulting in scarring or blemishes will not be penalised within the marking system, providing the horse/pony has completely recovered and is showing no signs of discomfort.
2. Anything that alters the natural colour or conformation of the horse or pony is strictly forbidden.
3. The Judge will not ride. An individual show is expected, this may or may not be set by the Judge.
4. Galloping is not allowed in any VHS classes. Any intentional galloping will lead to disqualification.
5. Each competitor will be asked a brief history of the veteran by the Judge.

SHOWING GUIDELINES (TURNOUT and TACK)

Handlers

1. Handlers must wear suitable smart attire.
2. Jacket to be of plain colour or tweed.
3. Jodhpurs or smart trousers.
4. Gloves should be worn.
5. Suitable, smart, safe footwear.

6. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn.
7. Long hair to be neatly fastened and contained within a hair net. Juniors may wear long plaits but loose pony tails are not allowed.
8. Suitable hats to be worn. No baseball caps. It is strongly recommended that all competitors wear correctly secured riding hats in accordance with the current approved BSI or European standard.

Riders

9. Spurs may not be worn by any riders under any circumstances, including side-saddle exhibits.
10. Jacket to be of plain colour or tweed.
11. Jodhpurs to be plain, beige or canary yellow in colour.
12. Shirt of a discreet colour with tie or stock.
13. Gloves should be worn.
14. Jodhpur boots or long riding boots.
15. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn.
16. It is **mandatory** for all competitors to wear correctly secured riding hats to the current approved BSI or European standard, with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where SSA rules apply (with the only exception that no spurs or spur bands are allowed).

Grooms

17. To wear a hat, smart attire and suitable footwear (see rules for handlers above).
18. Shorts, jeans and baseball caps are not allowed.
19. Marks **will be deducted** for poorly turned out grooms and they may be asked to leave the ring.

Horse/Pony

20. Tack must be in good, clean condition and correctly fitted.
21. Lead rein exhibits must be shown in a snaffle bridle. The lead rein must be attached to the noseband at all times during the class. Riders of lead rein ponies are not permitted to carry whips.
22. Stallions must be bitted.
23. Showing canes/whips exceeding 76cm will not be permitted (with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where SSA rules apply).
24. No item of tack can be removed or exchanged whilst a class is in progress without the Judge's permission.
25. Plain, discreet protective boots may only be used in very exceptional circumstances. Written veterinary advice to do so must have been given along with written approval from head office. Boots may also be used for the jumping phase of Working Hunter and Style and Performance classes.
26. Bits – any suitable bit is acceptable. Bit-less bridles are permitted. Children under the age of 12 years are not permitted to use a double bridle or double reins.
27. Should any form of tack not be recognised as commonly used attire, please gain written permission to use this from head office. This may only be acceptable if it is for the welfare of the veteran.
28. The age of the horse/pony must be clearly displayed on the offside of the bridle. VHS age badges are supplied with showing cards in the first instance and are also available from head office (for members and non-members).

SHOWING MARKS SYSTEM

1. Both in-hand and ridden classes will be marked as follows:
 - Performance and manners 50 marks
 - Condition for age, suppleness and turnout 50 marks
2. In the event of a tie, the 'performance and manners' mark will take precedence.

3. Marks are only awarded for walk, trot and canter. Any other movements will not be marked.
4. Over-weight or under-weight horses will be marked down.

SHOWING CLASSES

Foundation classes - In-Hand

- CLASS 1F **DIAMOND VETERAN IN-HAND** (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 2F **VETERAN IN-HAND** (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 3F **PRE-VETERAN IN-HAND** (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Foundation classes - Ridden

- CLASS 4F **DIAMOND VETERAN RIDDEN** (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 5F **VETERAN RIDDEN** (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 6F **PRE-VETERAN RIDDEN** (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Foundation classes - Combined age (Area Qualifiers only)

- CLASS AF **COMBINED AGE CLASS IN-HAND** (15 years and over).
To be run as one class but judged as separate age categories: Diamond Veteran (25 years and over), Veteran (20–24 years) and Pre-Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS BF **COMBINED AGE CLASS RIDDEN** (15 years and over).
To be run as one class but judged as separate age categories: Diamond Veteran (25 years and over), Veteran (20–24 years) and Pre-Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – ENGLAND and WALES

Area Qualifiers (Round 1)

Area Qualifiers (Round 1) are held throughout the UK, usually at local level shows. Foundation classes. Members and non-members may compete.

Rosettes optional (not supplied for combined classes): 1st to 3rd place (members and non-members)
Regional Final qualification (red cards to non-members): 1st to 4th place (members and non-members)

1. Foundation Classes – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1st to 4th place in each age category (1F - 6F). This includes combined classes (AF and BF) where all competitors will be placed in the final class order but the Judge will award 4 qualifications in each age category.
2. Should any competitor have already qualified, then qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum to 6th place.
3. Qualifying members carrying their valid membership and showing cards will have the Regional Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. This allows entry to any Regional Final(s) (Round 2).
4. Non-members placed in a qualifying spot will be given a **red** non-members qualification card. This must be submitted to head office, together with a membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be

sent out with the membership pack, allowing entry to Regional Final(s) (round 2).

Regional Final (Round 2)

Regional Finals are open to qualified members only. Foundation classes. It is not mandatory for shows to hold championships, although they may choose to do so.

Rosettes: 1st to 6th place (each class)

Supreme Final qualification: 1st to 2nd place (each class)

MandM Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed MandM (each class)

1. To compete in a Regional Final you must be a fully paid up member of VHS with valid membership card. You must also have a VHS showing card with a valid Regional Final qualification signature.
2. You will be asked to show both of these cards to the Steward on entering the ring and will **not** be allowed to enter without them.
3. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed.
4. Competitors may attend up to 4 Regional Finals in any one year, providing they are within an acceptable travelling distance. If a competitor is seen to be 'chasing' Regional Finals, this may lead to their membership being revoked.
5. Supreme Final qualification – 1st and 2nd placed competitors in each class will each qualify for the Supreme Final and will have the Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. Entries to the Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the show date**. Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
6. MandM Supreme Final qualification – The highest placed MandM in each class will qualify for the MandM Supreme Final at the National Veteran Open Championships and will have the MandM Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. It is possible for an MandM to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the MandM Supreme Final. If the competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.

Direct Qualifiers (Round 1 and 2 combined)

Direct Qualifiers are a direct route to the Supreme Final. Foundation classes only.

Members and non-members may compete at these.

It is not mandatory for shows to hold championships, although they may choose to do so.

Rosettes: 1st to 6th place (each class, members and day-members)

Regional Final qualification: 1st -4th place (each class, members and day-members)

Supreme Final qualification: 1st to 2nd place (each class, members and day-members)

MandM Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed MandM (each class, members and day-members)

It is the shows decision whether they wish to obtain VHS rosettes.

1. Non-members wishing to take part in a Direct Qualifier must purchase day membership from VHS head office, 2 weeks in advance of the show, at a cost of £15. They will then be provided with an age badge and a day membership card which they will need to carry in the ring. Day membership will apply to that show and that day only. Any day-member qualification signatures will be recorded on the day membership card by the Judge. This card must be submitted to head office **within 14 days of the show**, together with a full membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack in order for the qualifications to become valid for use.
2. Current Full VHS members are not required to obtain a day membership to enter these classes.
3. Regional Final qualification – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1st to 4th place in each class. Qualifying competitors will have the Regional Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. This allows entry to any Regional Final(s) (Round 2). Should any competitor have

already qualified, then qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum to 6th place.

4. Supreme Final qualification – 1st and 2nd placed competitors in each class will each qualify for the Supreme Final and will have the Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. Entries to the Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the show date** (day-members will need to become full members to do so). Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
5. MandM Supreme Final qualification – The highest placed MandM in each class will qualify for the MandM Supreme Final at the National Veteran Open Championships (day-members will need to become full members to enter). Qualifying competitors will have the MandM Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. It is possible for an MandM to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the MandM Supreme Final. If the competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.

The VHS Supreme Final

Arena UK, Grantham on Sunday 1st October 2017

1. All entries for the Supreme Final need to be made within the allotted timescales (see Regional Final and Direct Qualifier rules).
2. Entries must be for the same combination as per the qualifying rounds. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed.
3. Anyone found to have taken a second qualification for the Supreme Final with the same horse will have all qualifications revoked.
4. All entries will be required to submit a brief biography of their horse/pony which will be used by the commentator on the day.
5. Supreme Final classes will be held for each age section with 1st and 2nd placed competitors from each class going forward to a championship. There will be a separate In-Hand and Ridden championship.
6. The Champion and Reserve from both championships will go forward to the Overall Supreme Final Championship.
7. The Overall Champion will become the reigning VHS Veteran Horse of the Year and will hold the title for one year.
8. The Champions may be invited to attend functions around the country and represent the Society at various events (within an acceptable travelling distance).
9. All trophies presented by the Veteran Horse Society, will remain the property of the Society and must be returned clean and undamaged after 11 months (unless stated). A refundable deposit will be required when each trophy is collected.

THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – SCOTLAND

ALL SHOWS AFFILIATED TO THE VHS WILL NOW AWARD 4 PLACES TO THE PRE- QUALIFICATION SCOTTISH SUPREME FINAL.

Classes are open to members and non-members, however **ONLY MEMBERS** placed 1st to 2nd in each age category will go through to the veteran championship on the day of each show. In all classes - if competitors placed 1st or 2nd are not members then qualification will be given to 3rd and 4th providing they are members. Qualification will not go lower than 4th place.

The In-hand champion and reserve and the ridden champion and reserve will each qualify for the Supreme final pre judging on Saturday 23rd September – Grand Slam, Inglsiton Equestrian. Should the affiliated show hold a combined championship of the day (ridden and In-hand) then the top 2 Inhand and top 2 ridden members will qualify.

The champions and reserve both In-hand and Ridden (top 2 Inhand and 2 ridden in combined classes)

must have their showing card signed by the judge in the ring as proof of qualification. This will qualify through the pre-judging of the Supreme final. Entry must then be made on-line within 21 days of qualifying. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend the finals, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.

Anyone found to have taken a second qualification for the Supreme Final with the same horse will have all qualifications revoked.

All entries will be required to submit a brief biography of their horse/pony which will be used by the commentator on the day.

All competitors and grooms must adhere to VHS Rules in all circumstances. Failure to do so may result in immediate disqualification.

All entries for the Supreme Final need to be made within the allotted timescales

Entries must be for the same combination for all rounds. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed.

Larger and Agricultural Shows will be judged by A or A* panel judges

Riding Clubs or similar may appoint B (if an Area Qualifier only), A or A* panel judges.

Mountain and Moorland

In each age category; the highest placed VHS member with a Mountain and Moorland will receive a qualification to enter the pre-judging of the VHS Mountain and Moorland section at the Supreme final at Ingliston. Should any member have already qualified, then the qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum of 4th place.

You will receive a Yellow Card instructing you to now enter on-line with 21 days. After that date the qualification is not valid and your entry will not be allowed.

Young Rider Championship qualification

A young rider rosette and qualification will be awarded to the young rider of the judge's choice (one per show), entitling them to enter the young rider pre judging championship prior to the Supreme Final at the Grand Slam. This award is given at the judge's discretion.

Members must only have their card signed and not accept the orange card as this is for non-members. You must then enter on-line within 21 days or qualification is not valid.

VHS Scottish Supreme (Pre-Judging) Final qualification, Grand Slam, Ingliston Equestrian Centre on Saturday 23rd September 2017

There will now be nine pre judging sections on the Saturday to qualify for the four Supreme final classes on the Sunday.

Pre judging classes:

Ridden

Diamond Veteran (25 and Over) 1st - 4th qualify

Veteran (20 - 24 years) 1st - 4th qualify

Pre-Veteran (15-19 years) 1st - 4th qualify

Ridden Mountain and Moorland 1st-6th qualify

Young Rider (Rider to be 16 years and under) top 10 to qualify

In-Hand

Diamond (25 and over) 1st - 4th qualify

Veteran (20 - 24 years) 1st - 4th qualify

Pre-Veteran (15 - 19 years) 1st - 4th qualify

In-hand Mountain and Moorland 1st - 6th qualify

VHS Scottish Supreme Final, Grand Slam. Ingliston Equestrian Centre on Sunday 24th September 2017

There will now be four championships on the Sunday:

In-hand Supreme Final (12 qualified horses / ponies forward)

Ridden Supreme Final (12 qualified horses / ponies forward)

Junior Ridden Supreme Final (10 qualified riders forward)

Mountain and Moorland Supreme Final (combined) (12 qualified horses / ponies forward)

Overall Championship (Champions and reserves from each of the above 4 championships forward)

The Overall Champion will become the reigning VHS Scottish Veteran Horse of the Year and will hold the title for one year.

The Champions may be invited to attend functions around the country and represent the Society at various events (within an acceptable travelling distance).

All trophies presented by the Veteran Horse Society, will remain the property of the Society and must be returned clean and undamaged after 11 months (unless stated). A refundable deposit will be required when each trophy is collected.

NVOC

National Veteran Open Championship (NVOC). 29th September - 1st October 2017. Arena UK. Gratham. Lincs, combining the VHS Veteran Horse of the Year 2017.

As a Scottish Member you may enter the NVOC 2017 as it has now moved up to the North of England, but you may NOT enter the Area, Regional or Supreme Final qualifying classes, during or prior to the NVOC. Should you qualify for the Evening Performance and become Champion of Champions, you may accept your placing and prizes but qualification will be handed down the line (no lower than 4th) to the next competitor living in England or Wales. Champion and Reserve will go forward to the Supreme Final.

The Open Veteran Class. The Open Veteran Championship will be held at the NVOC and will be the ONLY class to incorporate both England, Wales and Scotland. Open to both Members and Non Members, both Professional and amateur riders. A card will be issued to Non Members and entry must be made within 21 days.

OPEN CLASS QUALIFIERS (AMATEURS and PROFESSIONALS) - RIDDEN

The Veteran Horse Society Open Classes are completely separate from the traditional VHS Showing Series above. The open classes may be held at larger county-type shows and offer the unique opportunity for professionals and amateurs to compete alongside one another in a single affiliated open ridden veteran class. Open to members and non-members. This is the only qualifying class that allows Scottish Members to attend a Supreme Final at the NVOC.

1. These classes are open to all horses/ponies aged 15 to 30. No horse/pony over the age of 30 will be permitted to complete.
2. Open Class Final qualification – 1st and 2nd placed competitors in each class will qualify for the Open Class Final at the National Veteran Open Championships (non-members will need to become full members to enter the Final).
3. Qualifying members carrying their valid membership and showing cards will have the Open Class section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring.
4. Non-members placed in qualifying spot will be given a **red** non-members qualification card. This must be submitted to head office, together with a membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack, allowing entry to the Open Class Final.

THE NATIONAL VETERAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arena UK, Grantham 29th September to 1st October 2017

This is a unique weekend of competition dedicated purely to veteran horses and ponies. It is open both to members and non-members and aims to provide a wide variety of classes which cater for all. We pride ourselves on creating a friendly and encouraging atmosphere for all to compete and have fun with their veterans.

All classes are for amateurs only, with the exception of the Open Class Final and associated qualifying class.

Schedules and entry forms will be published on our website www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk.

We will be hosting the last Regional Final of the season at the National Veteran Open Championships on Friday 29th September.

NEW JUDGES APPLICATIONS

We welcome and encourage all new Judge applications. From those with an extensive level of showing knowledge and experience, to those who have a passion and interest in veteran horses.

To apply to join the VHS Judges Panel, please send a completed application by email or post to head office. More information can be found on our website www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites are popular with both members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures. The VHS encourages the use of forums such as these in a positive, inclusive and respectful manner.

Inappropriate and offensive comments of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances - this includes inappropriate or disrespectful remarks about the Society, Judges, members and non-members etc.

Any person found to be making any such remarks in a VHS owned group will be removed from the group without warning and any member found to be making such remarks in any forum will be subject to the VHS disciplinary procedure which could result in membership being revoked.

DRESSAGE

VETERAN HORSE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Vale View Equestrian Centre – 14th to 16th October 2016

1. The Veteran Horse Dressage Championships are run in partnership with British Dressage (BD). They form part of the British Dressage Veteran Horse and Rider Championships and will be run in accordance with BD rules.
2. The qualifying year runs from 1st November to closing date for entries to the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships (the following year).
3. Veteran Horse Dressage is open to all horses/ponies 15 years and over and will be in split into two age categories: 15-19 years and 20+ years.
4. The levels included in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships are as follows:-

Intro	Elementary
Prelim	Medium
Novice	Advanced Medium
5. Anyone competing at Novice level can claim one free class ticket by emailing karen.beaumont@britishdressage.co.uk.
6. Both horse and rider must be eligible for the level they are competing at.
7. In accordance with the new competition structure implemented by BD on 1st December 2015, only those combinations competing in the bronze or silver sections of the relevant level will be eligible for

the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships.

Combinations competing in the gold section of their level *may* be eligible for the Championships but will be considered by BD on an individual case basis. Affected competitors are requested to contact Karen at BD with details of their competitive history for a decision on eligibility.

8. Combinations are able to qualify in 2 consecutive levels and must compete at the same level(s) at the Championships.
9. Downgrading – BD rules apply.
10. Riders must be full members of the Veteran Horse Society and have a VHS dressage card in order to be eligible to qualify for the Championships (horses/ponies must be registered with the VHS in order to obtain a VHS dressage card – registration is free of charge).
VHS membership / dressage cards can be applied for at any time. Early application is encouraged.
11. Combinations must achieve two scores of 60% or above at the same level to gain qualification to compete in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championship.
12. Qualifying scores can only be achieved at regular BD affiliated competitions, Team Quest or My Quest fixtures.
13. Riders must have full BD membership and horses must have BD associate horse registration (or above) to compete at the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships.
14. More information can be found on the website www.britishdressage.co.uk .
15. For VHS related dressage queries, please email vhsdressage@hotmail.com .

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The purpose of the Performance Awards Scheme is to encourage and reward the capability and versatility of the veteran horse and pony by offering a wide range of classes and activities in the equestrian world.

1. This competition is open to all horses and ponies 15 years old and over.
2. Riders/handlers must be a fully paid up member of the VHS. Horses/ponies must also be registered with the VHS.
3. The Performance Awards competition will run from 1st January to 31st December. Those applying after the start date can only gain points from the date their membership fee has been received by head office.
4. Any horse/pony sold during the competition may transfer any points gained to the new owner providing they are a fully paid up member of the Veteran Horse Society.
5. Entry is free to all VHS members and a results card will be included in your membership pack.
6. Extra results cards can be obtained free of charge by sending an A5 SAE to head office.
7. All entrants must register in one of the following groups:
 - Pre-Veteran (15–19 years)
 - Veteran (20–24 years)
 - Diamond Veteran (25 years and over)
8. Competitors must fill in their cards and keep total of their score.
9. Results cards must be signed by the Judge/Secretary.
10. Completed results cards must be returned to head office no later than the 31st December. No late entries will be accepted.
11. It is advisable to keep a photo copy of your results card before posting. Recorded delivery is recommended for your postage of the results cards. Please send an SAE if you require acknowledgement of receipt. The Veteran Horse Society cannot be held responsible for any results cards lost in the post.
12. Scores will be checked and results will be calculated.
13. The organiser's decision is final and binding at all times.

14. Winners will be notified by post by 1st February and results will be posted on the website.
15. 1st to 6th placed in each age group will be awarded a rosette and the winner of each age group will receive a prize.
16. Score System: Eligible events

Veteran Ridden	Dressage	Show Jumping	E-Showing
Veteran In-Hand	Side Saddle	Working Hunter	
Ridden Showing	Horse/Pony club	Hunter Trials	
In Hand Showing	Combined Training	Eventing	
Driving	Le Trec/Pleasure Rides	E-Dressage	

Place	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Points earned	6 points	5 points	4points	3 points	2 points	1 point

COMPLAINTS / DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The attention of officials, judge's and members is drawn to the complaints provisions of VHS whereby the society has powers to discipline officers, judges and members in the event of a failure to observe any rules and regulations made by the VHS or acts in such a manner that brings the VHS into disrepute.

As stated in the Constitution the rules are intended to ensure that everyone enjoys the VHS whether as an officer, a judge or through membership and its benefits in the fairest possible manner. A complaint or concern requiring investigation under this process can only be made by (or received from) one of the following sources:

- a fully paid up member,
- all judges and visiting officials,
- any other official of the club
- Venue owner/manager
- information from a professional external agency
- (such as HMRC, police or social services)

Any infringement of the rules as stated in:

- The Constitution
- Social Media and Internet Policy
- Confidentiality Agreement (Judges and Officials only)
- The Showing rules
- Safeguarding policy

will constitute a complaint and may be investigated. Other matters which any member of the management may raise as a concern are: -

- Unacceptable public behaviour at an event
- Bringing the club into disrepute
- Fighting between members
- Misconduct by the official or judge
- Reports from other recognised societies
- Banning or disqualification from showing by any society
- Disclosure of information from external Professional Agency
- Misuse of funds or property of the club,
- Misconduct by Management, Senior judges, Any Member
- Matters in private life of public concern (criminal offences, sexual offences, safeguarding concerns, public risk)
- Any other matter the Management feels is unacceptable and not in keeping with the society's activities.

Malicious or vexatious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will be then subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may

face expulsion – if a member then no refund of membership will be paid.

PROCESS

VHS recognises that transferable concerns can exist and will deal with any representation which may originate from another society or organisation that notifies them of their concerns. An individual letter of complaint is not required but the Director must authorise any such an investigation or action and any investigation will follow the same process of investigation as individual complaints.

The only exception will be on the production of substantive evidence that shows the individual member, judge or official is subject to an investigation by the protection agency/police/RSPCA into cruelty, neglect or failing to attend to the needs of their equine or a child to whom they had responsibility for their well-being. This also will apply to proven accusations in the past and all membership or association with VHS will be suspended until the evidence is confirmed. At that point their association will be permanently terminated.

All other complaints must initially be made in person (- a verbal representation can be made at a show immediately after the issue but must be followed up in writing as soon as practicable -) in writing to the Complaints and Representations Officers (CRO). Accompanied with a fee of £25 which will be returned if the complaint, representation or allegation is proved but will be forfeited if unfounded.

If the complaint or concern relates to the Show Manager or the Judge co-ordinator, then the Director will be informed by the CRO immediately so consideration may be made to replace or supervise them.

Any welfare issue regarding any veteran, will be acted on immediately. Full details of the horse and rider/handler are required and must be included in the written complaint. The Show Manager has the right to summon a vet if it is felt immediately necessary and at the expense of the owner if the vet confirms their immediate attendance was required.

Primary and informal stage

All complaints must be made directly to the VHS if the complaint relates to an event at a show, an individual member or official acting on behalf of the VHS. No comment should be placed on social media or shared with any other until the society has had the opportunity to assess the complaint.

All verbal complaints must be followed up in writing by the complainant and within 7 days. Any independent witnesses' details should be made known and if helpful a sketch of the place where the incident occurred should also be included.

On receipt of the verbal complaint an immediate risk assessment must be made by two Management officials, one of whom must be the Director and the other a CRO as to whether or not any immediate action should be taken. This might include the ejection of an individual, an immediate decision which may affect the day's activities or the calling of the police. The safety and best interests of other competitors and public at the show must be paramount; as too the protection of the complainant if protection is an issue.

If the complaint relates to a Safeguarding Matter the Safeguarding Officer must be involved in the risk assessment and any contact with external agencies. At no time and in no way, may any member of Management or the public present may detain a child or prevent their legal person with parental responsibility from removing their child from the showground even if a genuinely held belief of harm exists. In this instance an immediate call to police must be made to alert them to concerns and full information held. Written accounts will be sought from those involved in the event especially if it relates to Safeguarding or Equine Welfare.

On receipt of the complaint a discussion will be held with the CRO to evaluate the complaint and decide whether this warrants investigation or referral straight to the Management of the society for a hearing to be organised. An appropriate CRO will be allocated to each complaint and all issues related to that complaint must be directed to them in the first instance.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

If further investigation is required, then the CRO will contact the complainant initially to validate the allegations or concerns being made. Then the subject of concern and make appropriate arrangements to collate information from both sources relating to the complaint. Any named witness or other person involved in the concern will then be contacted for any additional information. In view of the potential distance between CRO and such individuals, contact by telephone is deemed appropriate. However, in due course a face to face meeting may be required.

Additionally, the subject may not wish to speak to the CRO on the matter in which case they should be requested to submit a statement which will be considered by the Disciplinary Panel. They must also be advised that any supporting witnesses statements and documents should accompany their statement.

In the first instance the CRO will collate information on the conversations held and may make recommendations on outcomes based on this to assist the Disciplinary Panel. This collated information with any recommendation should be sent to the subject for them to attach any additional statement or comment before it is then shared with the Disciplinary Panel.

The CRO must be available to talk to their investigation and offer any additional information if requested by the Disciplinary Panel.

DIRECT STATEMENT TO DISCIPLINARY PANEL OPTION

The allocated CRO will pass the complaint and any information received in connection with it to the Disciplinary Panel and have no further involvement unless requested to by the Panel.

SECONDARY AND HEARING STAGE

Any member subject to a full investigation should be invited to attend a meeting with the Disciplinary Panel to discuss either the CRO statement and any additional information or the statement of the subject of concern.

The individual should be given a minimum of five days' notice of the date and place of the meeting. As much reasonable considerations should be made to accommodate the subjects work, family or mobility status. Wherever possible the hearing should be undertaken within reasonable travelling distance of the subjects' home. Light refreshments should be available and time must be allocated in the hearing for comfort breaks.

The panel must consist of three Advisory Judges not known personally to the subject of concern. The VHS will facilitate an appropriate venue for the hearing to be held in, but will not be responsible for any financial arrangements or travelling needs of the subject or any witnesses they wish to be present at the hearing.

Whilst the subject may feel they wish to be supported by either an individual or a legal representative, that individual is not permitted to participate in the business of the hearing and may only act as a moral supporter.

No visual or audio recording of the hearing will be permitted and any notes from either party will be available to the other if requested. A formal note of the meeting will be created but will not be a verbatim record. It will remain in VHS custody and be retained with other secure documents and no one will have access to it as per the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

THE DISCIPLINARY PANEL: Role and outcome

The Disciplinary Panel will be run as a formal meeting but with sufficient informality to make the subject able to fully participate. An agreed format will be made and would normally be: -

- Introductions, confirming spellings of names
- Recording place, date of hearing, and both start and finish time with note of any breaks
- Complaint outlined
- CRO feedback from discussion with subject – unless this did not occur
- CRO presents any further information

- Any questions of CRO
- Subject asked to respond any questions for CRO – if involved.
- Any additional information or witness presentation
- Summing up by chair of panel – advise if they wish to take time to make decision that day or to confirm date for outcome to be sent. Conclusion – thanks to subject for helping in this investigation.

The Disciplinary Panel will then consider the information and make one of three decisions: -

- Accept the information and recommendations; and in writing advise the subject of that decision and give them 14 days to lodge an appeal or accept the decision.
- Accept the information but not the recommendations; make their own recommendations and put in writing to the subject giving 14 days to lodge an appeal or accept the decision.
- Disregard information from any source and record their reasons for doing so. Formally advising the subject of their decision in 14 days of this and dependant on the outcome consideration for further hearing or ancillary actions must be made. Direct action validated by the Director will not be subject to an appeals process.

VHS will offer administrative support wherever possible to ensure that the timescales are met. In exceptional circumstances a subject may not be well enough to attend on the day of the hearing and VHS would consider postponement as long as contact has been made advising of this situation before the allocated commencement time.

In the absence of any explanation of failure to attend the hearing, it should continue and reach a decision on the information available to them. The notification of outcome should be sent in writing to the subject in the prescribed 14 days for them to lodge an appeal or accept the decision.

GROUNDINGS FOR APPEAL

On receipt of the outcome of the panel the subject may wish to appeal the decision, however VHS will limit the grounds for appeal to the following:

- Thee subject can demonstrate they were not given the full details of the complaint on which to respond
- The subject notified the VHS of ill health and were not given the opportunity to have the date rearranged.
- The subject can demonstrate new and significant information which was not known at the time of the hearing, that needs to be considered.

Appeals will be considered by the Director and two officers of the VHS who were not involved in the complaint in any way. No hearing or formal meeting with the subject will be held and their decision will be final.

As has previously been stated if the Director has made a direct decision then no appeal process applies.

VETERAN HORSE SOCIETY JUDGES PANEL 2017

A* Senior – Area/Regional/Direct Level - Scottish Agricultural Shows

A Regional/Direct Level - Pre-Qual to Supreme

B Area Level - Scottish local level shows or Riding Clubs

P Probationary – Must NOT accept Judging appointments on their own.

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