



# RULE BOOK

# 2018

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**All competitors, officials and judges are to abide by Veteran Horse Society rules at all times.**

*All amendments to the 2018 rules are in italics and underlined*

### **The Veteran Horse Society Supreme Finals 2018** **30th September 2018**

### **The National Veteran Championships 2018** **28<sup>th</sup> - 30th September – 2018**

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

### **The Veteran Horse Scottish Society Supreme Finals 2018** **(incorporating. Pre-Qual Finals)** **16th September 2018**

*Highfield on Howe*  
*Fife Scotland. KY15 7UW*

## A. 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. The judge's decision of lameness of a horse/pony is not protestable.
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. 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.
5. Equine passports must always accompany the horse/pony when travelling and competing and must be produced on request.
6. All personal membership will run from 1st January to 31st December.
7. Show & Dressage Cards run from 1st October for the coming year. 1st October - 30th September
8. All membership/registration fees are non-refundable.
9. 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.
10. Members are advised to have a personal and public liability Insurance cover.
11. 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.
12. Remedial shoeing is permitted and will not be penalised, providing the horse/pony is sound.
13. Spurs are not allowed in any circumstance and competitors entering the ring wearing spurs will be disqualified immediately.

## B. WELFARE

1. The Judge will ask the competitor to leave the ring should the welfare of the veteran, handler/rider or any other competitor or official be compromised.
2. In extreme weather, 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. In severe wet or cold conditions protective rugs maybe worn in the line-up. Grooms will be permitted to enter the ring to place the rugs over the horse/pony, and must be appropriately attired
3. If any horse is deemed to have welfare issues, Judges must consider suspending the class if imminent harm is feared. "If the judge is of the opinion that there is a Welfare issue with an exhibit, be it in relation to size/weight of either equine, rider/handler or any combination or another welfare issue the judge will mark their score sheet accordingly or can, at the judge's discretion, disqualify the competitor. There is no appeal against dismissal from the ring for Welfare reasons

## C. SHOWING GUIDELINES.

1. Showing registration will run from 1st October to 30th September of each year
2. All competitors aged 16 years and under will require a person with parental responsibility signature on their membership application/renewal.
3. Lead rein riders (3-6 years of age). No child under 3 years old may compete. Lead rein riders are not to have attained their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.

4. Competitors riders/handlers 16 years and under. Handlers **must** be competent enough to handle the veteran without assistance. Riders/handlers not to have attained their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
5. 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.
6. All competitors in the ridden section must be capable of walk, trot and canter (with the exception of lead rein combinations who are not required to canter). First ridden combinations do not have to take part in the group 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 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before the first of January in the current showing year and be of an appropriate size to handle their Stallion
9. Mares in foal or with foals at foot are not permitted to compete.
10. Competitors must be Amateurs - Horses/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. VHS expects all competitors to respect this Amateur status in the spirit intended.  
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.
11. 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.
12. Riders/handlers may not knowingly exhibit a horse/pony which has been bred by the Judge.
13. Late entries will not be allowed into the ring once the initial order to trot has been given.
14. 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.
15. Any fall of horse and/or rider/handler and/or the loss of control of a horse/pony will result in disqualification.
16. Should a horse/pony mis-behave during presentation of a final awards, this may result in demotion or disqualification at the judge's discretion.
17. Mobile phones are not permitted in the show ring.
18. Judges must refrain from physical contact with any horse or rider during judging.
18. The judge may disqualify any animal from the class that is not sufficiently under control and is deemed a danger to other exhibitors or officials.
19. The Judge's decision is final. Confrontation with a judge official or another competitor\_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.

#### **D. 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. Discreet enhancement of natural features is permissible but it is recommended that use of makeup and body oils is kept to a minimum. Overuse may be penalised in the marking system. White scars or any blemishes will not be marked down.
3. The Judge will not ride. An individual show is expected, this may or may not be set by the Judge. Stripping of ridden horses/ponies is not expected at an Area Qualifier.

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.
6. M&M classes - horses must be a registered with a breed society to accept qualification. Breed registration is to be submitted on an entry to the M&M Supreme Final.

## E. SHOWING GUIDELINES (TURNOUT and TACK)

### Handlers

1. Handlers must wear suitable smart attire. In hand UK breed exhibits may turn-out in attire according to breed and type.
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. Immediate disqualification if 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.
9. Golden Ticket - Should a competitor gain a golden ticket to the Supreme Final, they may compete in the attire they qualified in. This should be made aware to the National Show Secretary on entry. Full entry rules are available on the National Veteran Championship Schedule
10. Foreign breed turnout is not acceptable in VHS Qualifiers or at the National Veteran Championships with the exception of the Golden Ticket qualifications and foreign breed classes, where foreign breed turnout is explicitly allowed in class wording.

### Riders

11. Spurs may not be worn by any riders under any circumstances, including side-saddle exhibits. (see also rule A.14)
12. Jacket to be of plain colour or tweed.
13. Jodhpurs to be plain, beige or canary yellow in colour.
14. Shirt of a discreet colour with tie or stock.
15. Gloves should be worn.
16. Jodhpur boots or long riding boots.
17. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn. Immediate disqualification if worn.
18. 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).
19. Golden Ticket - Should a competitor gain a golden ticket to the Supreme Final, they may compete in the attire they qualified in. This should be made aware to the National Show Secretary on entry. Full entry rules are available on the National Veteran Championship Schedule
20. Foreign breed turnout is not acceptable in VHS Qualifiers or at the National Veteran Championships with the exception of the Golden Ticket qualifications and foreign breed classes, where foreign breed turnout is explicitly allowed in class wording.
21. Riders/exhibits must wear suitable smart attire. All UK breed exhibits may turn-out in attire according to breed and type.

## Grooms

22. To wear a hat, smart attire and suitable footwear (see rules for handlers above).
23. Shorts, jeans and baseball caps are not allowed.
24. Marks **will be deducted** (max 10 marks) **for poorly turned out grooms and they may be asked to leave the ring.**

## Horse/Pony

25. Tack must be in good, clean condition and correctly fitted.
26. Stallions must be bitted.
27. Showing canes/whips exceeding 76cm will not be permitted (with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where SSA rules apply).
28. No item of tack can be removed or exchanged whilst a class is in progress without the Judge's permission.
29. 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.
30. Boots may also be used for the jumping phase of Working Hunter and Style and Performance classes (National Veteran Championships)
31. 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.
32. Should any form of tack not be recognised as commonly used attire, please gain written permission from head office and this should be submitted to the judge/steward on entering the ring. This may only be acceptable if it is for the welfare of the veteran.
33. 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).
34. A correctly fitted Newmarket lead rein is permitted.

## F. SHOWING MARKS SYSTEM

### VHS does not judge conformation.

1. Both in-hand and ridden classes will be marked as follows:
  - a. Performance and manners 50 marks
  - b. Condition for age, suppleness and turnout 50 marks
2. In the event of a tie, the 'b' mark will take precedence.
3. Marks are only awarded for walk, trot and canter. Any other movements will not be marked. (see also rule D.4)
4. Over-weight or under-weight horses will be marked down.(see also rule B3)

## G. 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.

## H. THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – ENGLAND and WALES

At no point may any competitor that lives in Scotland qualify in a VHS Qualifier situated in England or Wales.

### H. (i) 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): 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> place (members and non-members)**  
**Regional Final qualification (red cards to non-members): 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place (members and non-members)**

1. Foundation Classes – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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). It is the responsibility of the competitor to hand the Show Card to the judge on the final line up. No cards maybe signed after the competitor has left the ring.
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).

### H (ii) 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: 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place (each class)**

**Supreme Final qualification: 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> place (each class)**

**M&M Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed M&M (each class). Must be a registered breed and hold a valid M&M Breed Society Passport.**

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 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. M&M Supreme Final qualification – The highest placed M&M in each class will qualify for the M&M Supreme Final at the National Veteran Open Championships and will have the M&M Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. It is possible for an M&M to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the M&M 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**.
  7. Competitors will be expected to strip their veteran.

#### **H. (iii) 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.

*It is the show's decision whether they wish to obtain VHS rosettes.*

***Rosettes: 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place (each class, members and day-members)***

***Regional Final qualification: 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> place (each class, members and day-members)***

***Supreme Final qualification: 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> place (each class, members and day-members)***

***M&M Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed M&M (each class, members and day-members)***

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 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> place.
4. Supreme Final qualification – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. M&M Supreme Final qualification – The highest placed M&M in each class will qualify for the M&M Supreme Final at the National Veteran Championships (day-members will need to become full members to enter). Qualifying competitors will have the M&M Supreme Final section of their

showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. It is possible for an M&M to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the M&M 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**.

#### **H. (iv) The VHS Supreme Final**

##### ***Arena UK, Grantham on Sunday 30th September 2018***

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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.
9. Golden Ticket - Breed Society Qualification. Acceptable turnout is that in which the competitor qualified. VHS Disclaimer must be signed if no hard hat is worn. . No spurs are accepted in any circumstances.
10. Full Rules and Regulations are available within the National Veteran Championships Schedule.

#### **I. THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – SCOTLAND**

1. At no point may any competitor that lives in England or Wales qualify at a Scottish VHS Qualifier.
2. Classes are open to members and non-members, however **ONLY MEMBERS** placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> in each age category will go through to the VHS championship on the day of each show. In all classes - if competitors placed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> are not members then qualification only, not the placing, will be given to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> providing they are members. Qualification will not go lower than 4<sup>th</sup> place.
3. The In-hand champion and reserve and the ridden champion and reserve will each qualify for the Supreme final pre judging on 16th September 2018. 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.
4. 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**.
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Champions will be contacted or presented with the qualification should the Champion or Reserve be unable to attend or have previously qualified.
6. Entry to be made within 21 days of qualifying

7. It is the responsibility of the Champion and Reserve to hand the Show Card to the judge on the final line up. No cards maybe signed after the competitor has left the ring.
8. The Judge is to give 2nd and 3rd reserve placings and inform the show of these results on the results sheet.
9. Anyone found to have taken a second qualification for the Pre-Qual Final with the same horse will have all qualifications revoked.
10. All entries will be required to submit a brief biography of their horse/pony which will be used by the commentator on the day.
11. All entries for the Scottish Pre Qual Final need to be made within the allotted timescales
12. Entries must be for the same combination for all rounds. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed. All entries will be checked and verified by HO when entering.

**I (i) Mountain and Moorland - Open to registered M&M and hold a valid M&M Breed Society Passport.**

1. 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 Highfield on Howe , Fife. Should any member have already qualified, then the qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum of 4<sup>th</sup> place.
2. 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.

**I (iii) Young Rider Championship qualification**

1. A young rider (14 years and under) rosette and qualification will be awarded to the young rider of the judge's choice (one per class), entitling them to enter the young rider pre judging championship prior to the Supreme Final. This award is given at the judge's discretion.
2. One qualification per age category.
3. 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.
4. Not open to in-hand or lead rein. This is a class to encourage the riding and care and welfare of veterans that are owned/cared for by members under the age of 12 years. Competitors that show dedication and responsibility to the care and welfare of their veteran.

**I (ii) VHS Scottish Supreme (Pre-Judging) Final qualification, Highfield on Howe Centre 16th September 2018.**

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

**I (iii)VHS Scottish Supreme Final. 16thSeptember 2018. Highfield on Howe KY15 7UW**

There will now be four championships:

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.

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.

## **J. NATIONAL VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

National Veteran Championship . 28th - 30th September 2018. Arena UK. Gratham. Lincs, combining the VHS Veteran Horse of the Year 2018.

As a Scottish Member you may enter the NVC 2018, but you may NOT enter the Area, Regional or Supreme Final qualifying classes in England or Wales, during or prior to the NVC. 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.

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.

Schedules and entry forms will be published on our website [www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk](http://www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk) .

The National Championship will be hosting the last Regional Final of the season at the National Veteran Championships on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

## **K. 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. The minimum age for a VHS judge is 21 years. More information can be found on our website [www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk](http://www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk) .

## **L. 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.

Any person associated with the VHS, judge competitor or otherwise, found to be making any such remarks in a VHS owned or associated 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 or association being revoked.

The VHS is a family orientated organisation and as such, full respect should be shown at all times.

## **M. DRESSAGE**

## **VETERAN HORSE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **Full information available directly from British Dressage**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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	PSG
5. Both horse and rider must be eligible for the level they are competing at.
6. In accordance with the new competition structure implemented by BD on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, 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 BD with details of their competitive history for a decision on eligibility.
7. Combinations are able to qualify in 3 consecutive levels and must compete at the same level(s) at the Championships.
8. Downgrading – BD rules apply.
9. 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.
10. Combinations must achieve three scores of 60% or above at the same level to gain qualification to compete in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championship.
11. Qualifying scores can only be achieved at regular BD affiliated competitions, Team Quest or My Quest fixtures.
12. Riders must have full BD membership and horses must have BD associate horse registration (or above) to compete at the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships.
13. More information can be found on the website [www.britishdressage.co.uk](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk) .
14. For VHS related dressage queries, please email [info@veteran-horse-society.co.uk](mailto:info@veteran-horse-society.co.uk)

## **N. 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. Cards will be issued up to 31st July of each year.

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 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 open to all VHS members, the fee is to be included with Membership or renewal of Show/Dressage Card 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> January and results will be posted on the website.
15. 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6th
Points earned	6 points	5 points	4points	3 points	2 points	1 point

## **O. COMPLAINTS / DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

1. The attention of officials, judges and members is drawn to the complaints provisions of the VHS. Whereby the VHS has powers to discipline officers, judges, members and/or any competitor 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.
2. Managers/Directors  
VHS Veteran National Championship - VHAS Director/Administrator  
Membership - Membership Secretary/Director  
General Showing Complaint at any – VHS organised / managed show – the Show  
Manager/Secretary  
General Showing complaints at any other show must be made in writing to VHS Head Office by recorded delivery within seven days
3. Malicious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will then be subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may face expulsion – if a member then no refund of membership will be paid.
4. An official complaint should be made in person to the Manager as set out above, and he or she will endeavour to resolve the matter immediately. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of

the Manager then he or she must put the complaint in writing to the VHS Head Office within 7 days.

5. The complainant should make it clear in writing to the VHS that the grievance procedure is being invoked and must ensure that the necessary payment of £30.00 is made at the same time. (payable by cheque or card payment to VHS HO). The VHS Directors and nominated Senior Representative/s will then deal with the complaint within 28 days (or as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances).
6. On receipt of the complaint the Directors and nominated Senior Representative/s will engage in a meeting and discuss the complaint.
7. The complainant will then be informed of the decision within 14 days of the meeting.
8. The Directors decision will be final and binding.