

COMPETITION RULES FOR 2026

In order to offer Qualifying classes all shows must affiliate by 1st February of the current year. This will ensure inclusion in the Current Show and Fixture List.

I FALLS: A fall of horse/pony or rider in any class run under Side Saddle Association rules will result in disqualification, and the rider must leave the ring dismounted. It is strongly recommended that medical advice is then sought before competing in any other class.

II LEAD REIN: Competitors may only compete Hors Concours (see SECTION I, 4.3) in any SSA affiliated class apart from Best Horse or Pony or otherwise stated. Competitors in an Open or Junior Equitation class do not receive Equitation points, Show or SSA rosettes but are eligible to be judged for the Junior turnout rosette. Leaders of lead rein competitors must be correctly dressed including safe footwear and appropriate headgear.

III DISPENSATION: Any rider with a physical impairment or Special Educational Needs who may require adaptations for competing should apply in writing, accompanied by the relevant medical evidence certificate which externally verifies the impairment or condition, to the Hon General Secretary. The SSA has adopted the wearing of the Sunflower Armband for those with a hidden disability.

IV SSA ROSETTES: SSA Members must carry their current Membership/Points Cards in the ring to be eligible for SSA Rosettes, Awards and Qualifying Place Points (see SECTION I, 7.1). **NO CARDS – NO SSA ROSETTES.**

V HATS: Correctly secured Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet **one of the following** Current Safety Standards **MUST** be worn by all Junior Riders and Adults where indicated in the competition rules: PAS 015 2011, VG1 01.040 2014-12, ASTM F1163 2015 or 2023, E2016 or 2021 onwards, EN1384 2023.

VI ADULTS: Adult competitors must wear a hat to Current Safety Standards or above where indicated in the Competition Rules. Where safety hats are not compulsory, Adult competitors wear alternative headgear at their own risk.

^ Hats to Current Safety Standards or above must be worn by all competitors where indicated.

VII IDENTIFICATION OF STALLIONS: Stallions are to be identified by the horse wearing a blue ribbon in its tail AND a bridle disk, it is acceptable for the disk to be from another Society.

VIII RIDERS OF STALLIONS: Junior riders under the age of 14 years on 1st January of the current year are not permitted to ride a stallion in any SSA class or display and any other SSA event.

IX STALLION SAFETY: Competitors must give stallions sufficient space for safety. The rider of any stallion is responsible for ensuring that they are under control at all times in any SSA class or display and any other SSA event.

X EQUINE INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS: Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all horses competing in Side Saddle Association events. The requirement for the first 3 vaccinations from 1 January 2024 is as follows: the first 2 vaccinations 21 – 60 days apart, a third booster between 120-180 days, and an annual booster vaccination within 365 days thereafter. No horse should enter competitions within 7 days of an EI vaccination. Foals should commence vaccinations at 6 months old. This Rule may be subject to change from guidance from the FEI/BEF and any changes will be notified via the Side Saddle Association website. The current FEI ruling is for a six monthly booster as opposed to annual; therefore it is recommended that you check with shows that fall under FEI regulation before entering e.g. Windsor, Hickstead, HOYS etc.

XI CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF HORSES AND PONIES AT EVENTS/THE CHARTER FOR THE HORSE: The Side Saddle Association endorses the British Horse Society Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at events (Adapted by The Showing Council) and has adopted the British Equestrian Charter For The Horse. Both documents can be found and downloaded on the Competitions page/Shows & Fixtures of the SSA website:
http://www.sidesaddleassociation.co.uk/shows_fixtures.asp

XII SENSORY HAIR REMOVAL:

Whilst the FEI has implemented a ruling from 1 July 2021 that prevents the clipping or shaving of sensory hair from horses this has not yet been adopted by all disciplines in the UK. As members of the Showing Council the SSA will adopt their stance following their consultation with welfare societies in so much as it will be left to individual riders to make a decision on whether or not they remove whiskers.

The SSA Judges' Panel has been advised they must not discriminate between whiskers that are left on or trimmed/shaved.

The situation will be monitored by the Showing Council and continually reviewed by the welfare societies and we will advise of any changes.

When competing in other disciplines and under other Society/Association rules it is the rider's responsibility to check requirements in relation to sensory hair removal.

XIII JUDGES

Judges have the right to remove from the Ring any Competitor who in their opinion uses the whip excessively, or whose Saddlery or Equipment becomes unsafe during the class, or whose horse is:

- (i) unruly
- (ii) lame, or in a condition which the Judge considers unsuitable for competition
- (iii) wearing a saddle that is likely to cause it discomfort
- (iv) wearing a saddle that is dangerous.

In all matters the Judge's decision is final, and the Judge should not be consulted at any time.

A Judge may only take one Probationary Judge at any one show. Judges are eligible to recommend a Probationary Judge or take a Probationary Judge at a show providing they do not have an * against their name in the Judges' List.

XIV CANE/STICK LENGTH: Competitors must adhere to the guidelines on cane/ stick length outlined in the turnout guidelines in 1.14 and 3.4.

XV MOBILE PHONES: No unauthorised use of mobile phones and/or ear pieces is permitted in the ring. Any phone taken into

the ring by an official, steward or groom etc must be set to mute. The taking of photos/videos from within the ring is strictly prohibited with the exception of the official photographer.

SECTION I

SIDE SADDLE EQUITATION – RULES FOR QUALIFYING CLASSES

1 MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION

- 1.1 Only Life, or paid up Full and Junior Members of the Side Saddle Association are eligible to win Qualifying Points, to receive Side Saddle Association rosettes and to proceed to the National Equitation Championships. (Associate Members, or competitors who are not Members of the Association, are therefore not eligible to win Qualifying Points, receive the Association's rosettes or compete in the National Equitation Championships).
- 1.2.1 JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP. A Junior Member is a Member who has attained their 5th birthday and is aged under 18 on 1st January of the current year.
- 1.2.2 A Young Rider is aged over 5 years but under 14 on 1st January of the current year.

2 JUDGING CRITERIA

In all Equitation classes it is the rider and not the horse that is judged and qualifies, as there will be no reference to the sex, breeding or conformation of the horse. However, horses should, in the opinion of the judge, have manners suitable for carrying a side saddle. Horses shall be four years old or over.

- 2.1 Judges will take into account effective horsemanship, suppleness, straightness, poise of the rider and overall impression of the combination of the rider and horse.
- 2.2 Competitors should not compete under a judge who, during the previous six months, has given them individual instruction. (A Side Saddle Association Clinic is exempt). Competitors may compete Hors Concours (see 4).
- 2.3 The Judging criteria for Qualifying classes does not permit competitors to share a horse or pony. If a horse or pony is shared, at the Judge's discretion, the second rider competes Hors Concours (see 4) and will only ride the freestyle show (see 5.2) at the end of the class.
- 2.4 No persons are permitted in the ring during an Equitation class, except to bring rugs, assist with remounting or, at the Judge's discretion, provide other assistance. Competitors are encouraged to dismount during other competitors' individual shows.
- 2.5 If any change to saddlery, clothing or equipment takes place during any Equitation class, the competitor automatically becomes Hors Concours (see 4).

3 SUBSTITUTION OF HORSES

There will be no bar to the substitution of one horse for another in a side saddle Equitation Qualifying class.

4 HORS CONCOURS COMPETITORS

- 4.1 Members competing Hors Concours must ensure that the Show Secretary, Judge, and Ring Steward are informed before the commencement of the class.
- 4.2 Competitors must provide and wear a white armband.
- 4.3 Members competing Hors Concours will only be awarded 2 Qualifying Points (**excluding lead rein competitors**); they may not receive Side Saddle Association Rosettes, Show Rosettes or any Prize.

5 SIDE SADDLE EQUITATION QUALIFYING CLASS JUDGING PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Competitors enter the ring together and are required by the Judge to walk, trot and canter on the right rein, followed by a change of rein through trot and canter left, before being called into line.
- 5.2 Each competitor is asked to give a freestyle show not exceeding 2 minutes, including some walk on one rein, and trot and canter on each rein.
- 5.3 Each competitor's saddle and turnout will be inspected after completing the freestyle Show. (See Turnout Guidelines).
- 5.4 LATECOMERS. Competitors who enter the ring after the class has started trotting may only compete Hors Concours (see 4).
- 5.5 LEAD REIN competitors may only compete Hors Concours (see 4).

6 QUALIFICATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Competitors in Qualifying Equitation Classes are awarded Qualifying Points based on their placings, provided they are carrying their Championship Points Cards, in the ring or arena.

- 6.1 Qualifying Points are awarded as follows:
1st place: 5 points 2nd place: 4 points
3 Qualifying Points are awarded for competing but not being placed in the first two. (For Open classes, please also see 7).
- 6.2 No Qualifying Points are awarded in the event of a fall during a class, or in the event of a Judge removing a competitor from the Ring (see 10.2), or in the event of a competitor leaving the ring without the Judge's permission.

7 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING POINTS

- 7.1 Competitors in the Equitation Championship Qualifying Classes must present their current Championship Points Cards in the ring in order to be signed by the Judge. If no Points Card no SSA Rosettes or Points for that placing are awarded and they go down the line to the next Member with their Points Card. Members presenting their cards after the class are only eligible for 2 Qualifying Points regardless of their class placing.

- 7.2 In Open classes, competitors will receive the affiliating Show's trophies, rosettes and prize monies as they stand.
- 7.2.1 SSA rosettes and Qualifying Points shall be awarded to eligible Adult and Junior Members as two sections.
- 7.2.2 The three highest placed Adult Members and the three highest placed Junior Members will each receive SSA rosettes.
- 7.2.3 The two highest placed Adult and Junior Members will each receive Qualifying points, (1st = 5 points & 2nd = 4 points). All other members receive 3 points each.
- 7.3 The Young Rider rosette sponsored by Southernden Side Saddles will be awarded to the highest placed rider aged under 14 on 1st January.
- 7.4 2 Qualifying Points shall be awarded to Adult and Junior Members who participate as mounted guinea pigs at SSA Examinations and Seminars. Championship Points Cards must be presented on the day.
- 7.5 Continuation Cards can be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary.

8 TURNOUT ROSETTES

8.1 In Open, Adult and Junior Equitation Qualifying Classes, a sponsored rosette in memory of the late Mr R Philpot is offered to the highest placed Adult Member and Just So Elegant Side Saddle Hire sponsors a rosette to the highest placed Junior Member, whom the Judge considers to be the best turned out. Any LEAD REIN competitor is eligible to be considered for the Junior Turnout rosette. Leaders must be correctly dressed.

9 QUALIFIERS FOR THE SIR LANCELOT MEMORIAL TROPHY AND THE LADY GUINEVERE TROPHY (selected shows only)

- 9.1 A Special rosette, sponsored by Lucinda Sims, will be offered to the Adult Member of the SSA Area in which the show is organised, who is judged, during the Equitation Qualifier Class, (irrespective of final placing) to be the most elegant. That Member will be eligible to compete in the Final for the Sir Lancelot Memorial Trophy (donated by the late Mrs E Skelton) at the National Side Saddle Show. A Member may only qualify once per season between one National Show and the next, and if the Judge's first choice has already qualified, the rosette will be awarded to the next eligible competitor.
- 9.2 At those shows where a Sir Lancelot Qualifier is to be held a Special rosette, sponsored by SSA Area 6, will additionally be offered to the Junior Member of the SSA Area in which the show is organised, who is judged, during the Equitation Qualifier Class (whether Open or Junior) and irrespective of final placing, to be the most elegant. That Junior Member will be eligible to compete in the Final for the Lady Guinevere Trophy at the National Side Saddle Show. A Junior Member may only qualify once per season between one National Show and the next, and if the Judge's first choice has already qualified, the rosette will be awarded to the next eligible competitor.
- 9.3 Up to two 'Sir Lancelot' and two 'Lady Guinevere' Qualifiers, at two different shows, may be allocated by each Area each year, the 'Sir Lancelot' and 'Lady Guinevere' Qualifiers must be held at the same show. These Qualifiers are held by invitation of the Chairman of the SSA Area in which the Show(s) is/are held.
- 9.4 If an Area does not wish to take up the two 'Sir Lancelot' and the two 'Lady Guinevere' qualifiers they are entitled to hold, or, hold no qualifiers at all this needs to be a decision made by the Area Committee and must be recorded in meeting Minutes. The Area should advise the Hon. General Secretary in writing of their decision by 31st March each year and provide a copy of the Minutes of the meeting at which the decision was made.
- 9.5 If an Area wishes to apply for extra qualifiers, they should make a written request to the Hon. General Secretary by 31st March each year including which show they would like to run the qualifier at. A decision will be made by the Core group on the re-allocation of any unused qualifiers, priority will be given to the Areas with a high proportion of competing Members.

10 JUDGES

- 10.1 All Equitation Qualifying Classes must be judged by a current SSA Panel Judge who is either a Life, Full, Associate or Honorary Member. Judges are responsible for checking from the current SSA Shows and Fixtures List that they are judging at a correctly affiliated show.
- 10.2 Judges have the right to remove from the Ring any Competitor who in their opinion uses the whip excessively, or whose Saddlery or Equipment becomes unsafe during the class, or whose horse is:
- (i) unruly
 - (ii) lame, or in a condition which the Judge considers unsuitable for competition
 - (iii) wearing a saddle that is likely to cause it discomfort
 - (iv) wearing a saddle that is dangerous.
- 10.3 In all matters the Judge's decision is final, and the Judge should not be consulted at any time.
- 10.4 A Judge may only take one Probationary Judge at any one show. Judges are eligible to recommend a Probationary Judge or take a Probationary Judge at a show providing they do not have an * against their name in the Judges' List.
- 10.5 Sir Lancelot Memorial Trophy will be judged by a recognised Panel or invited guest judge.

11 TROPHIES

All trophies, which are the property of the Side Saddle Association, are deemed Perpetual Challenge Trophies.

12 LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

The Side Saddle Association accepts no liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, riders, grooms, spectators or any other person whatsoever.

SECTION II

NATIONAL EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. NATIONAL EQUITATION & TURNOUT CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFICATIONS

Any Member entering any Championship Equitation Class must have won at least 9 Qualifying Points in Qualifying classes between the previous and the current National Equitation Championship. The following additional qualifications apply:

- 1 In order to qualify to enter the NOVICE EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS at Junior level, Members must not have:
 - (i) been placed first or second in a Novice Equitation & Turnout class at the National Equitation Championships in two consecutive years.
- 2 In order to qualify to enter the NOVICE EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS at Adult level, Members must not have:
 - (i) been Novice Champion/Reserve Champion, or been placed first in a Novice Equitation & Turnout class at the National Equitation Championships within the last three years preceding the show, or
 - (ii) been placed in the first six in an Intermediate Equitation & Turnout class at the National Equitation Championships within the last three years, or
 - (iii) competed in an Open Equitation & Turnout class at any previous National Equitation Championships.
- 3 In order to qualify to enter the ADULT INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS, Members must not have:
 - (i) been Intermediate Champion/Reserve Champion, or been placed first in an Intermediate Equitation & Turnout class at the National Equitation Championships within the last three years preceding the show, or
 - (ii) been placed in the first six in an Adult Open Equitation & Turnout class at the National Equitation Championships within the last three years.
- 4 In order to qualify to enter the OPEN EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS at Adult or Junior levels, Members must have:
 - (i) been placed first or second at least once in Qualifying classes between the dates of the previous and the current ~~the~~ National Equitation Championships.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- (a) Members who have been placed first or second in Qualifying classes since the previous National Equitation Championships, but do not feel capable of entering the Open Equitation Championship class, may enter the appropriate Novice or Intermediate Class provided that they have gained at least 9 Qualifying Points and are otherwise eligible for the class.
- (b) Members who have at any time competed in Open Equitation Championship classes or have been Intermediate Champion or Reserve or been placed first in the Intermediate Equitation Championship class automatically qualify to enter the current year's Open Equitation Championship class, provided that they have won at least 9 Qualifying Points in Qualifying classes.
- (c) Adult Members who were Junior Members in the previous year may enter the Adult Equitation Championship class of their choice, provided they have gained the appropriate qualifications for the class.
- (d) Each Equitation Championship will have its own Test, which will be published in the current year's Handbook and on the website.
- (e) At the National Side Saddle Show, Members may enter only one Championship class.
- (f) At the National Side Saddle Show, a Newcomer is a Member who has not previously competed in an Equitation Championship class at any level.

B. RIDER OF THE YEAR AND OTHER CHAMPIONS

Please see the **NOTE** explaining the scoring method at the end of Section B.

- 1 The Adult Side Saddle Rider of the Year shall be determined from a Ride-Off. The four members with the highest percentage score totals from the Adult Open Equitation Championship Class and the Open Adult Equitation Jumping Class, riding the same horse or pony, qualify for the Ride-Off. During the Year as title-holder, the Rider of the Year may be required to represent the SSA at certain events.
- 2.1 The Junior Side Saddle Rider of the Year shall be the Junior Member, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Junior Open Equitation Championship class and the Junior Open Equitation Jumping class.
- 2.2 The Young Rider Open Champion shall be the Young Rider, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Young Rider section of the Junior Open Equitation Championship class and the Young Rider section of the Junior Open Equitation Jumping class. The Young Rider may win overall and also be the Junior Rider of the Year.
- 3 The Adult Intermediate Champion shall be the Adult Member, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Adult Intermediate Equitation Championship Class and the Adult Intermediate Equitation Jumping Class.
- 4 The Adult Novice Champion shall be the Adult Member, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Adult Novice Equitation Championship Class and the Adult Novice Equitation Jumping Class.
- 5.1 The Junior Novice Champion shall be the Junior Member, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Junior Novice Equitation Championship Class and the Junior Novice Equitation Jumping Class.
- 5.2 The Young Rider Novice Champion shall be the Young Rider, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Young Rider section of the Junior Novice Equitation Championship class and the Young Rider section of the Junior Novice Equitation Jumping class. The Young Rider may win overall and also be Junior Novice Champion.
- 6 The Adult Amateur Champion shall be the Adult Member, riding the same horse or pony, with highest percentage score totals from the

Adult Open Equitation Championship Class and the Adult Open Equitation Jumping Class. The definition of 'Amateur' will be given in the National Side Saddle Show Schedule.

NOTE: The Rider of the Year and other Championship results are achieved by adding the total Equitation percentage marks (which include the Turnout marks) and total Equitation Jumping percentage marks (which include the Penalties marks) together and dividing by four to achieve the final percentage. In the event of a tie, the competitors with the highest percentage score totals in the Equitation riding phase shall take the highest place(s). Only those competitors entered in the Rider of the Year and other Championships shall have their percentage marks included for the overall results.

C. OVERSEAS COMPETITORS

- 1 Overseas Members may compete in Equitation Championship classes at Junior, Novice, Intermediate or Open level without Qualifying Points.
- 2 Overseas Members are not eligible for any of the Equitation Championship titles without having gained appropriate Qualifying Points (Section IIA).
- 3 In Equitation and Equitation Jumping classes, English habits, and hard hats where required, are compulsory.
- 4 In all other classes, Overseas Members may wear traditional habits.
- 5 The Adult Overseas Champion shall be the Adult Overseas Member, riding the same horse or pony, with the highest percentage score totals from the Adult Open, Adult Intermediate and Adult Novice Equitation Championship class and the Adult Open, Adult Intermediate and Adult Novice Equitation Jumping class. See NOTE at the end of Section B.

D. CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIP EQUITATION TESTS

- 1 The Tests will be conducted in accordance with the Side Saddle Association Rules as they appear in the current Members' Handbook.
- 2 The approximate time allowed for each test is 5 minutes.
- 3 The arena for the Open and Intermediate tests measures 20m x 60m, and for the Novice tests 20m x 40m.
- 4 Scale of marks for all tests: 10 – excellent, 9 – very good, 8 – good, 7 – fairly good, 6 – satisfactory, 5 – sufficient, 4 – insufficient, fairly bad, 2 – bad, 1 – very bad, 0 – not performed.
- 5 Penalties for error of course: 1st error = 2 marks, 2nd error = 4 marks, 3rd error = 8 marks, 4th error = elimination.
- 6 Equitation Championship tests may not be commanded or performed on a lead rein.
- 7 Judges will assess the Correctness of the Rider's position and the Influence on the Horse/Pony's way of going and the Stability and Balance of the Saddle.

E. EQUITATION JUMPING

Competitors may only compete once in any Equitation Jumping class, but may ride subsequent rounds, the National Side Saddle Show excepted, Hors Concours on another horse or horses.

1 THE COURSE

- (a) The course shall consist of at least six fences: rustic, coloured or a mixture of both.
- (b) Maximum height of fences (competitors may select at which height they would like to jump within their relevant class):
Design note: Please layout with line breaks as below and a half line space between each section as per 2024 Handbook

Young Rider & Junior Novice A

Number of fences 8 - max height 40cms, max spread 30cms, first 2 fences max height 30 cms

Young Rider & Junior Novice B

Number of fences 8 - max height 55cms, max spread 40cms, first 2 fences max height 45cms

Young Rider & Junior Open A

Number of fences 8 - max height 55cms, max spread 40cms, first 2 fences max height 45cms

Young Rider & Junior Open B

Number of fences 8 - max height 70cms, max spread 45cms, first 2 fences max height 60cms

Adult Novice A

Number of fences 8 - max height 70cms, max spread 45cms, first 2 fences max height 60cms

Adult Novice B

Number of fences 8 - max height 75cms, max

spread 60cms, first 2 fences max height 70cms

Adult Intermediate A

Number of fences 9 - max height 75cms, max spread 60cms, first 2 fences max height 70cms

Adult Intermediate B

Number of fences 9 - max height 85cms, max spread 70cms, first 2 fences max height 75cms

Adult Open A

Number of fences 10 - max height 85cms, max spread 70cms, first 2 fences max height 75cms

Adult Open B

Number of fences 10 - max height 90cms, max spread 75cms, first 2 fences max height 85cms

- (c) It is recommended that the first fence is built on the right rein towards the collecting ring
- (d) Doubles and 'dog leg' turns MAY NOT be included at any level

2 JUDGING

- 2.1 Two judges, marking independently, and positioned in different areas of the Arena, will judge the competitors. At the National Equitation Championships there will be a third judge who will be adjudicating the Penalties only; these Penalties will be deducted from each set of Bonus points from the other judges.
- 2.2 The two Judges will take into account effective horsemanship, suppleness, straightness, poise of the rider, the presentation of the horse to the obstacle, the rider's position and the fluency and correct style of both horse and rider over the obstacle and when landing.
- 2.3 Each obstacle will attract a maximum of 10 bonus marks using the following scale: 10 – excellent, 9 – very good, 8 – good, 7 – fairly good, 6 – satisfactory, 5 – sufficient, 4 – insufficient, 3 –fairly bad, 2 – bad, 1 – very bad, 0 – not performed.
An overall general impression mark out of 20 will be awarded.
- 2.4 In the event of a tie, the Bonus Marks (excluding penalties) will take precedence, followed by the Overall General Impression marks.
- 2.5 Each competitor will commence the round immediately after the bell (no salute required).

3 PENALTIES

From the bonus marks awarded, the following penalties will be deducted:

Knocking down any part of an obstacle, including a wing: 2 penalties 1st refusal: 3 penalties 2nd refusal: 6 penalties
3rd refusal: Elimination

Re-crossing original track will be considered a refusal. Taking wrong course: Elimination

Fall of horse and/or rider in ring: Elimination

Horse and rider leaving the arena: Elimination

Any outside assistance: 10 penalties

4 SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 Any conventional bridle, with bit, may be used.
- 4.2 Only one noseband may be used. It may be either a cavesson, flash, Grackle or drop noseband.
- 4.3 Martingales are permitted, either running or standing. Neck-straps are permitted.
- 4.4 No side reins, running, draw, check or bearing reins are allowed. Market Harboroughs are not allowed.
- 4.5 Boots and bandages are allowed.
- 4.6 Blinkers and hoods are not allowed.
- 4.7 A rigid cane or flexible stick not to exceed 76cms, when riding a pony not exceeding 148cms or one metre, when riding a horse/pony exceeding 148cms.
- 4.8 A blunt spur is optional for Adults but may not be worn by Juniors.
- 4.9 Back protectors are permitted. If a jacket is not worn, a sweater of a colour similar to that of the apron must be worn.
- 4.10 ^Hats to Current Safety Standards or above must be worn.

SECTION III

ADDITIONAL CLASSES AVAILABLE TO AFFILIATING SHOWS

Unless stated against individual classes, the Judge shall be on the current SSA Judges' Panel.

SIDE SADDLE RIDING CLUB HORSE/PONY OPEN CLASS

^ Hats to Current Safety Standards or above must be worn.

Open to horses and ponies 4 years old or over. Riders will be required to give a short show including a small jump, maximum height 60cms excluding the National Show. The height may be adjusted during the course of the class at the Judge's discretion. The class shall be judged on the show, the manners of the horse/pony, and its suitability for the rider. Conformation will not be considered. A Special rosette will be awarded to the highest placed Adult and Junior Members of the SSA.

BEST HORSE OR PONY RIDDEN SIDE SADDLE

Open to horses or ponies 4 years old or over: conformation and manners will be taken into consideration. Horses/ponies will not be stripped. Special rosette to the highest placed Adult and Junior Members of the SSA. The highest placed coloured exhibit **ridden by a competitor aged 16ys or over** (who has not already qualified) receives a Qualification Card and qualifies for the Side Saddle Final at the CHAPS Championship Show. Open to any type of exhibit. Lead rein riders are eligible for this class. Leaders must be correctly dressed.

CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE CLASSES

The Judges for the following two classes shall be on the current SSA Judges' Panel but may be assisted by a Celebrity or Sponsor.

SIDE SADDLE CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE

The sole criterion for this class is the elegance of the picture presented by horse and rider. Attention may be paid to the rider's personal appearance, but detailed inspection of rider or tack is not required. Fancy dress or period costume is not permitted. Competitors are required to walk, trot and canter. No individual show is required, but the Judge may ask groups of three or four riders to give short displays. A Special rosette will be awarded to the highest placed Adult and Junior Members of the SSA carrying their current Championship Points Cards. **N.B.** Silk hats permitted to be worn by Adults in this class AT ANY TIME OF DAY.

^ Juniors must wear hats to Current Safety Standards or above for this class.

Where this class is a main ring attraction Shows may, at their discretion, limit entries to adult competitors only and the rosette provided for the highest placed Junior will not be awarded.

SIDE SADDLE COSTUME CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE

The sole criterion for this class is the elegance of the picture presented by horse/pony and rider and the way of going of the horse/pony. Safe tack must be used. Detailed inspection of the rider's period costume is not required. Fancy Dress is not permitted. Competitors are required to walk, trot and canter. No individual show is required, but the judge may ask small groups of riders to give short displays. A Special rosette will be awarded to the highest placed Adult and Junior Members of the SSA carrying their current Championship Points Cards.

Competitors should produce a brief written résumé of their costume for the Commentator.

^ Juniors must wear hats to Current Safety Standards or above for this class.

QUALIFIER FOR THE SIDE SADDLE ASSOCIATION CLASSICAL LADIES SIDE SADDLE FINAL

The Judge shall be on the current SSA, SHBGB or BSHA Judging Panels.

A maximum of 3 qualifiers per annum are permitted for SSA Area run Shows

Open to SSA Adult Members and Non-members, aged 18 and over on 1 January of the current year, riding side saddle, on horses exceeding 148cms. To be judged 25% conformation and action, 25% manners and way of going, 25% rider, and 25% turnout of horse & rider, by a SSA, or BSHA Panel Judge. Judges may request a short show, but will not ride exhibits; horses will not be stripped. Traditional habits must be worn. Fancy Dress and Period Costumes NOT permitted. **N.B.** Silk hats are permitted to be worn in this class AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY, UNLESS SHOW SCHEDULE WORDING STIPULATES SAFETY HATS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. Judges are requested to use the mark sheet provided. The highest placed horse/rider combination qualifies for the Final to be held at the National Side Saddle Show. One special rosette and the qualification card will be given to the qualifying combination at each show, this may not always be the winner; if the winner has already qualified they may be passed down to fourth place. *Qualifiers kindly sponsored by Mrs. T. Mitchell and Mr. L. Mitchell.*

Qualifying combinations are required to become Full Members of the SSA 21 days prior to the National Side Saddle Show or as soon as possible if qualified after that date to be eligible to compete at the Final. Combinations qualifying between one National Side Saddle Show and the next may carry forward the qualification, for that year only.

The four highest placed **Riding Horse, Hack (not exc 160cm), Cob or Hunter**, Mare or Gelding, 4 years and over, ridden by a SSA Adult Member qualify for the current year's **BSHA Championship Show Mears - Wood Ladies Show Horse Championship**. Combinations qualifying after the current year's BSHA Championship Show may carry forward the qualification, to the following year. **SSA Members who qualify for The Mears - Wood Ladies Show Horse Championship, will not be required to join the BSHA** in order to compete in any **Side Saddle class** at the **BSHA National Championship Show**. If the BSHA Championship Show entries have closed at the time of qualification, competitors will not be charged a late entry fee for the **Championship**.

QUALIFIER FOR THE SIDE SADDLE ASSOCIATION CONTEMPORARY LADIES SIDE SADDLE FINAL

The Judge shall be on the current SSA, SHBGB or BSHA Judges' Panels.

A maximum of 3 qualifiers per annum are permitted for SSA Area run Shows.

Open to SSA Adult and Junior Members and Non-members riding a Native, Part Bred, Heavy or World Breed horse / pony side saddle.

To be judged 25% suitability of horse/pony for rider, 25% manners and way of going for type, 25% rider, and 25% turnout of horse & rider.

Conformation will not be taken into consideration. The Judge will request a short show. Traditional habits must be worn. **N.B.** Silk hats are permitted to be worn in this class AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY, UNLESS SHOW SCHEDULE WORDING STIPULATES SAFETY HATS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. Judges are requested to use the mark sheet provided. The highest placed horse/rider combination qualifies for the Final to be held at the National Side Saddle Show. One special rosette and the qualification card will be given to the qualifying combination at each show, this may not always be the winner; if the winner has already qualified they may be passed down to fourth place. *Qualifiers kindly sponsored by The Langley Family.*

Qualifying combinations are required to become Full Members of the SSA 21 days prior to the National Side Saddle Show or as soon as possible if qualified after that date to be eligible to compete at the Final. Combinations qualifying between one National Side Saddle Show and the next may carry the qualification, for that year only.

PLEASE NOTE YOU MAY ONLY ENTER EITHER THE CLASSICAL OR CONTEMPORARY CLASS AT SHOWS AND ONLY QUALIFY FOR ONE OF THE FINALS UNLESS YOU HAVE TWO HORSES/PONIES OF A DIFFERENT TYPE.

EQUITATION JUMPING (to be run under SSA Rules)

The course shall consist of six to ten fences: rustic, coloured or a mixture of both. Maximum heights of fences – see page 46-47.

^ Hats to Current Safety Standards or above must be worn.

Shows may title their class(es) at their discretion.

PONY RIDER SIDE SADDLE STAKES

Open to ponies not exceeding 148cms. The course will consist of 6 to 10 obstacles, minimum height of 45cms and maximum height of 60cms, spread not to exceed 60cms. There will be no doubles.

HORSE STARTER SIDE SADDLE STAKES

Open to Horses exceeding 148cms. The course will consist of 6 to 10 obstacles, minimum height of 60cms and maximum height of 75cms, spread not to exceed 75cms. There will be one double of uprights.

TOP HAT SIDE SADDLE STAKES

Open to Adult riders only. The course will consist of 6 to 10 obstacles, minimum height 85cms, maximum 90cms approx., and spread not to exceed 90cms. In the event of a tie after the first round there will be a timed jump-off.

AFFILIATING SSA AREA RUN or SHOW RUN BY SSA MEMBER SHOWS ONLY

OTHER CLASSES

WORKING HUNTER AND WORKING HUNTER PONY CLASSES

^ Hats to Current Safety Standards must be worn for the jumping phase of these classes.

^ Junior competitors must wear a hat to Current Safety Standards or above throughout these classes.

These classes may be combined at the Judge's discretion.

Riders may be of any age. In all working hunter classes, the spread of the obstacle may not exceed the height.

SIDE SADDLE OPEN WORKING HUNTER

Open to horses exceeding 148cms. Height of fences: maximum 85cms. This class will be judged in accordance with SHBGB mark sheets.

SIDE SADDLE OPEN WORKING HUNTER PONY

Open to ponies not exceeding 153cms. Fences not to exceed 75cms. If the class is split into height groups, ponies not exceeding 143cms will jump a course not exceeding 70cms; ponies not exceeding 133cms a course not exceeding 60cms.

SHOW JUMPING CLASSES

To be judged in accordance with BS rules. Table A7 and speed 325mpm. The maximum permitted length of whip, including the tassel, is 1 metre.

^ Hats to Current Safety Standards or above must be worn.

SPECIAL ROSETTES

The SSA offers Shows the option of awarding rosettes to the highest placed Side Saddle Association Member in such classes as Ladies' Hunter, Ladies' Hack, Side Saddle Show Pony etc.

SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT required by other societies/shows

DRESSAGE:

BRITISH DRESSAGE rules apply concerning biting and saddlery, with the exception that Double or Pelham bridles are permitted in Freestyle to Music classes at the National Side Saddle Show. British Dressage Walk & Trot, Preliminary & Novice Dressage Tests may only be ridden in a snaffle bridle. For competitors' dress, see Equitation Turnout Guidelines (subject to individual Show Rules).

RIDING CLUB DRESSAGE rules state that a whip may be carried in Horse Trials and Dressage Championships and qualifying classes for these championships by competitors riding side saddle.

PONY CLUB DRESSAGE. Some Tests may be ridden in a Snaffle or Simple Double bridle, and others only in a Snaffle. Please check carefully.

No protection of the horses' legs is permitted in any dressage test.

All Dressage and Dressage to Music Test Sheets may be obtained from British Dressage, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden, West Midlands, CV5 9RG.

WORKING HUNTER:

SHBGB Rules apply. A change of saddle is permitted to enable the judge to ride, if she or he does not ride side saddle.

WORKING HUNTER PONY:

BSPS Rules apply.

SHOW JUMPING:

BS Rules apply.

EQUITATION JUMPING:

See Rules under Equitation Jumping.

SSA EQUITATION:

See Turnout Guidelines (subject to individual Show Rules).

OTHER CLASSES:

Appropriate Society affiliation rules from the show schedule