



RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MEMBER HANDBOOK

VERSION 2.0 SEPTEMBER 2026

RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA CLUB RULES & REGULATIONS:

GENERAL:

- Member Code of Conduct MUST be followed at all times.
- The Committee reserves the right to remove any problem horse or rider from an arena and/or grounds if necessary.
- Show management reserves the right to change the order of classes before or during the show. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be aware of any changes which will be posted at the Show Secretary's office and/or announced.
- Every endeavor will be made to give one hour's notice of any changes to the running order of events.
- Numbers must be displayed in a ridden event on each side of the saddle pad; in a led event, on the handlers' back.
- Horses may not be entered into more than **three (3) divisions** per show, including Youth divisions, or in a manner that may cause mental or physical distress.
- A horse may not be shown by more than one rider in the same class.
- Unregistered horses entering Ranch Prospect, Amateur, Select Amateur, Masters, Junior Horse, Senior Horse, Youth or All Age events must provide a veterinary certificate confirming the horse's age.
- Financial membership is not required for a horse **owner** for the horse to compete or receive RHAA EOY or Lifetime points.
- **Riders/handlers must be** current financial members for both horse and rider points to be awarded.
- Points, earnings and experience in other breed associations or equestrian disciplines may be considered when determining eligibility.
- Show Committees and/or the RHAA reserve the right to refuse entry into a division based on previous experience.
- RHAA Membership is not required to compete at an RHAA approved show; however, competitors must meet RHAA eligibility and be a RHASA member to compete.

MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT:

Competitors/participants of any event run by the RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of their horses and treat them humanely with dignity, respect, and compassion.

Competitors/participants are to conduct themselves in a professional manner and act with integrity in all dealing with the Association and other competitors and agree to uphold the rules and regulations of the RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA and its governing bodies, at all times.

Competitors/participants are to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Poor behaviour in the form of aggression, bad language or abuse of other competitors will not be tolerated. Persons involved in such behaviour may be excluded from the show, removed from the grounds, and may be reported to the relevant breed association or society or governing body.

Any exhibitor or rider who refuses to obey the request of the Judge, Show Manager or any Show Official, will be automatically excluded from further competition at the show and forfeits all previous winnings together with all entry fees and other charges.

All competitors are to treat others with respect, always place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations, be responsible and accountable for their behaviour, follow the guidelines outlined in this policy if they wish to make a complaint or report a concern about possible child abuse, discrimination, harassment, or other inappropriate behaviours.

Committees are volunteers. Abuse or disrespect to any committee or show organiser will not be tolerated and incidents will be referred to the executive committee for discussion, and/or suspension or expulsion of a member.

SHOW HI-POINT AWARDS:

To be eligible for overall division Hi Point, a horse or rider **must** show in the **conformation** class and a minimum of **two ridden classes** in the nominated division.

Horse classes: Heritage Snaffle Bit, green horse, intermediate horse, junior, senior & all age horse.

Rider classes: EWD, green rider, green youth, Intermediate rider, intermediate youth, amateur, select, and Youth.

Prospect classes: Yearling, 2 & 3 year old. Must compete in all 3 classes, lunge line, trail and conformation.

A **rider** can nominate a maximum of two horses per division for points. If more than two horses are entered in any rider division, only the highest placed horse will be allocated points towards high point awards when an individual rider places twice in one class.

END OF SEASON HI-POINT AWARDS:

RHASA End of Year (EOY) High Point Awards

RHASA Full Members are eligible for End of Year (EOY) High Point Awards. Points are accumulated throughout the competition year from all eligible RHASA shows and classes, excluding the RHASA State Show. The Secretary will maintain records and tally points throughout the season.

Any member who wins an EOY High Point Award in one of the following divisions:

- Green Youth
- Green Rider
- Green Horse
- Intermediate Rider
- Intermediate Horse

must advance to the next division in the following competition season and will not be eligible to win the same RHASA EOY High Point Award again. If a member is unsure which division they are required to progress to, they should contact the RHASA Committee for clarification.

Members who are also Full Members of the RHAA and hold the appropriate rider permit may continue to compete in the same class the following season, provided they remain eligible under the current RHAA Rules and have not exceeded the maximum points permitted under the RHAA Rule Book. However, any member who has previously won an RHASA EOY High Point Award in one of the above divisions will remain ineligible for that same RHASA EOY High Point Award in future seasons.

CROSS ENTERING DIVISIONS:

GREEN RIDER - Walk/trot only. Horse/Rider combination **ineligible** to cross enter any other ridden class.

GREEN HORSE Horses with minimal show experience. Professional or nonprofessional riders. **Ineligible to cross enter any other horse division.**

NO REINING FOR GREEN HORSE OR GREEN YOUTH / RIDER.

INTERMEDIATE RIDER - Rider **ineligible** to cross enter GREEN RIDER classes.

INTERMEDIATE HORSE - Horses with 'some' previous show experience. Professional or nonprofessional riders.

HERITAGE SNAFFLE BIT – Those entered in this division, if eligible, can cross enter, Amateur, Select Amateur, Masters, Intermediate Rider, Intermediate Youth, Youth & Intermediate Horse. **Ineligible** to cross enter Green Rider, Junior Horse, Senior Horse & All Age divisions.

OPEN CLASSES: Junior & Senior Horse, Amateur, Select, Masters and All Age; must be ridden in the correct head gear, in a western saddle per RHAA/AQHA rules.

*Junior horse: Horses five-years-old (5) and younger

*Senior Horse: Horses six-years (6) and older

Youth competitors are to wear an approved safety helmet whilst mounted. Youth must not ride or handle a stallion at any time

LEADLINE: A lead at least 1.8 m long must be attached to a halter that is under the bridle so that while the rider is mounted, the horse is controlled by the adult. The chain on the halter cannot be under the chin or over the nose, it must come straight off the halter ring. No two (2) or three (3) year old horses can be used in this class. No rider entering this class can enter any other ridden class on the program.

GREEN RULES:

Green Division Equipment Rules

- Horses must be ridden two-handed in a snaffle bit with split reins, mecate rein or hackamore only.
- Any safe saddle permitted (Western, stock, fender or English).

GREEN RIDER

- **Walk and trot only.**
- No canter/lope permitted.
- Riders are not eligible to enter any other ridden division. (excludes prospect)
- Riders may not show more than one horse in the same class.
- Horses may not be shown by more than one exhibitor in the same class.
- No Ranch Cattle or Ranch Reining events permitted.
- Once a rider competes in another ridden division, they are no longer eligible for Green Rider unless approved in writing by the RHAA Appeals Committee.
- Riders must never have been paid or compensated to train, show or assist in training horses in any discipline.
- Borrowed horses permitted.

Eligibility:

Competitors must meet eligibility requirements and/or hold a current RHAA Green Rider Permit to receive EOY points. Competitors with extenuating circumstances may apply in writing to: appeals@rhaa.com.au prior to entries.

GREEN HORSE

- Walk, trot, lope.
- **No Ranch Cattle or Ranch Reining** events permitted.

Eligibility:

- Horses must have little to no prior show experience.
- Experience and points in other disciplines count toward eligibility.
- Horses shown extensively or professionally trained over multiple seasons should progress to Intermediate Horse.
- Horses that have competed in professional aged-event programs are not eligible.

Restrictions:

- Green Horses are not eligible to compete in any other horse division.
- Once a horse competes in another division **it may not return** to Green Horse.

INTERMEDIATE:

- Horses may be shown one or two-handed in any legal headgear.
- Riders may ride one or two-handed in a curb bit but may not switch once the class has commenced.
- Saddles permitted: Western, stock, fender or English.
- Cattle events: Western, stock or fender saddles only.

Class Requirements:

- Walk, trot, lope.
- One or two-handed permitted in legal headgear.

Eligibility:

- Borrowed horses permitted
- Competitors must meet eligibility requirements and/or hold a current RHAA Intermediate Rider Permit to receive EOY points.
- Intermediate Horses must meet eligibility requirements as per the RHAA rule book.
- Horses with limited show experience, transitioning into the bridle.
- Extensive cattle experience excludes riders from Intermediate cattle classes.
- Extensive dry work/pattern experience excludes riders from Intermediate dry work classes.
- Experience and earnings for both intermediate horse & riders across disciplines will count toward eligibility.

OPEN:

OPEN CLASSES:

- Non-registered horses must provide a veterinary certificate confirming age.
- Western saddles only.
- Horses must compete in legal headgear appropriate to the horse's age. **Per Junior & Senior Horse;;**

JUNIOR HORSE:

- Open to horses aged 3–5 years.
- Open to all riders except Green Rider.
- Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore or one-handed in a curb bit.

SENIOR HORSE:

- Open to horses aged 6 years and over.
- Open to all riders except Green Rider and Green Horse.
- Horses must be ridden one-handed in a legal bridle.
- Split reins, Romal or two rein permitted.
- Western saddles only.

AMATEUR:

Open to riders who are not professionals in the horse industry and who meet RHAA Amateur eligibility requirements.

SELECT AMATEUR:

Open to Amateur competitors aged 50 years and over. Proof of age required.

MASTERS AMATEUR:

Open to Amateur competitors aged 65 years and over. Proof of age required.

YOUTH:

- Open to competitors aged 7–18 years.
- If split, divisions may be: 7–13 years and 14–18 years
- Parent/guardian permission required and must sign entry form.

Youth competitors must be supervised by a responsible adult for the duration of the event. Youth riders must use legal headgear and attire appropriate for the horse's age. Youth competitors may show non-owned horses in Youth and Open classes.

Youth competitors are to wear an approved safety helmet whilst mounted. Youth must not ride or handle a stallion at any time.

EWD: Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the RHAA Rule Book.

REFER TO RHAA RULE BOOK: www.rhqa.com.au/rules

SHOW WARM-UP RING ETIQUETTE:

Arena Warm-Up Etiquette:

- Always go with the flow of traffic.
- NEVER stop your horse in traffic, and ALWAYS look behind you before you stop or slow down.
- Always look where you are going and watch out for other riders.
- Don't tie horses in the warmup arena.
- No mobile phones, headphones, or ear buds in the actual **arena**.
- **No Smoking, Vaping or Alcohol.**
- For the safety of riders, fencing (running/stopping) should only be during designated times or when few riders are in the arena.
- Riders should practice spins in the middle of circles only.
- Beginning the morning of show day, before the show starts and during competition, only riders entered in competition are allowed on horseback in warm up areas, no bareback riding and no riding double during that time frame.

GUIDELINES, GEAR & ATTIRE:

- No horse under 3 years of age may be exhibited under saddle.
- No hoof polish/black.
- **No boots of any description. Tendon boots, bell boots, splint boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in ranch reining and cattle events only.**
- No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions. except in any class where roping is involved, the horse's mane may be braided for a distance of 33 – 45cm in front of the saddle pad. No ribbons or other kinds of ornamentation will be allowed.
- Trimming inside ears is discouraged. Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit.
- Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- Holding the saddle horn or front of saddle with either hand will not be penalised in any class.
- Posting or standing in stirrups at extended trot is acceptable.
- When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.
- No drag permitted in Level 1 (Green) or Level 2 (Intermediate), Australian Heritage Snaffle Bit, Green Rider or Youth classes.
- Tie Breaker - specific manoeuvres and/or obstacles will be selected by Judge prior to start of the class and so noted on score sheets, these manoeuvres will be ranked as 1st tie breaker, second, third etc.
- Scoring: Each exhibitor is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. Exceptions; Conformation & Ranch & On The Rail.

Unregistered horses wishing to enter Prospect classes, Amateur, Select, Masters, Junior, Senior Horse or All Age Classes; an aged vet certificate must be provided prior to entry via email.

LEADLINE:

Open to children riders 4 to 8 years of age
Horse MUST be led by an adult (person 18 years old or over). A lead at least 1.8 m long must be attached to a halter that is under the bridle so that while the rider is mounted, the horse is controlled by the adult. The chain on the halter cannot be under the chin or over the nose, it must come straight off the halter ring. No two (2) or three (3) year old horses can be used in this class. No rider entering this class can enter any other ridden class on the program.

ATTIRE:

WESTERN ATTIRE MANDATORY; (All divisions)

- long sleeve collared shirt - half or full button or zipper, Collar = band, stand-up, tuxedo etc
- b) western hat (the hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena) or ASS approved safety helmet. Safety standard numbers for these helmets are AS-NZS 3838, ARBHS 2012 and ASTM F1163.
- western pants/jeans
- western boots.

Optional Attire – Necktie, scarf, Spurs, chinks and chaps in ridden classes.

SHOW HI-POINTS:

HI-Points for each division will be awarded.

- ★ Yearling Led Prospect
- ★ 2yo & 3yo Led Prospect
- ★ All Age
- ★ Green Horse
- ★ Intermediate Rider

- ★ Amateur
- ★ Select Amateur
- ★ Green Rider
- ★ Intermediate Youth
- ★ Australian Heritage Snaffle Bit
- ★ Green Youth
- ★ Intermediate Horse
- ★ Youth
- ★ OVERALL RANCH HORSE OF THE DAY – Judges Choice
- ★ ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD – Judges Choice

SHOW OFFICIALS:

Show Manager:	Lionel Heath 0438 984 423
Show Secretary:	Jess McKee 0499 916 202
Rider Representative:	Alli Mott 0403 564 780

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

Use Social Media appropriately. By all means share your positive experiences of RHASA but do not use Social Media as a means to breach any of the expectations and requirements of you as a Participant of RHASA. Do not make any public comment that is critical of the performance of a judge, competitor, official, or employee/ officer/volunteer/member of any affiliate or the RHASA or on any matter that is, or is likely to be, the subject of an investigation or disciplinary process; or otherwise make any public comment that would likely be detrimental to the best interests, image and welfare of the competition or Ranch industry.

Social Media means any form of online or interactive application or other form or medium that enables users to create, share and/or upload content, including SMS, MMS, email and such platforms as Facebook, WhatsApp, Myspace, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, blogs, podcasts, message boards and websites. Breaches of this policy will be reported to the RHAA. The RHAA Board may fine any offending member an amount of \$500.00 or if deemed a serious breach and appropriate refer the matter to a Disciplinary Committee.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

DEFINITION: Inclement weather is defined as the existence of rain or abnormal climatic conditions (such as hail, extreme cold, high wind, severe dust storm, extreme high temperature or any combination of these conditions) where it not reasonable or it is unsafe for competitors and livestock to continue to work in those conditions. Days of extreme/catastrophic fire risk and bans are also included in this definition for RHASA. RHASA may cancel events based on but not limited to these criteria.

CANCELLATIONS OF EVENTS: RHASA committee will monitor weather conditions and fire danger warnings via the BOM and CFS websites the week prior to an event. If a decision by the RHASA committee is made to cancel the event, this will be made 2 days prior to the event, and all competitors will be notified.

CANCELLATION / PAYMENTS & REFUNDS POLICY:

Entry fees are payable upon submitting an entry via EFT to the RHASA nominated bank account and must be paid in full by the entry closing date.
No Pay -No Entry, this is the responsibility of each competitor.

CANCELLATIONS OF ENTRIES: Cancellations must be notified by email to the secretary; no other form of communication will be accepted:

- If you cancel before the close of entries, you will be entitled to a full refund. (Close of entries is the date advertised on the entry form and via social media).
- If you cancel any time after the close of entries, then you will need to provide a vet certificate for your horse or a personal medical certificate for the rider to the RHASA secretary by email, for the committee to review. If the Committee decide a refund is to be paid, it will be minus the Admin Fee of \$20. **No vet certificate for your horse or medical certificate for the rider your money will not be refunded.**
- As soon as you commit and pay for a competition with RHASA there will always be an admin fee that needs to be held. The admin fee is subject to change.
- Monies paid can be transferred to any future events if you are unable to attend the event you have paid for. An email to the RHASA secretary needs to be sent, prior to the event.
- Exceptional circumstances may be considered by the RHASA committee but need to be submitted via email to the RHASA Secretary.

DISPUTES POLICY:

In the event of a protest regarding a result or placing, it must be made in writing (handwritten or electronic accepted) to the RHASA secretary and lodged within 15 minutes of completion of the days competition. Such complaints to be accompanied by a fee of \$50, payable at the time of the protest, which will be forfeited if the protest is dismissed. Money will be refunded if claim is upheld.

STALLION POLICY:

STRICTLY NO STALLIONS OR COLTS TO BE HANDLED BY A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

Stallions/colts are welcome to compete in events with the RHASA; however, the committee reserve the right to hold events that can be listed as "No stallions or Colts allowed at this event". Stallions are to be handled by a person over the age of 18. RHASA Committee reserve the right to deem any stallion unsuitable for participation in club events. RHASA reserve the right to ask the stallion owner / handler to remove the stallion from the grounds.

Competitors must also follow the venue rules around handling and stabling of stallions and colts.

SMOKING POLICY:

STRICTLY NO SMOKING!

Smoking and vaping are banned in all public areas at and within 10 metres of any part of an entry point to an enclosed public place, workplace or shared area.

Smoking & Vaping are not permitted:

- In the arena, marshalling and warm up areas
- Canteen or administration area

ALCOHOL & ILLICIT DRUG POLICY:

STRICTLY NO DRUGS!

Alcohol & Illicit Drugs are **NOT** permitted in the arena and marshalling areas, during competition hours of any event.

REVIEW POLICY:

Review of RHASA competition rules. The committee will review the RHASA Handbook and Competition Rules from time to time and reserve the right to alter or change the rules without notice. Changes to the Handbook / Competition rules will be posted via social media on the RHASA website.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COMPETITORS.

Happy Ranching!!