



RHASA

**RANCH HORSE
ASSOCIATION**

of **SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

Ranch Horse Association of South Australia

Member Handbook

Version 1.0 July 2025

RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CLUB RULES & REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES – APPLIES TO ALL COMPETITORS:

- 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 reserve 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 hours' 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.
- No horse under 3 years of age may be exhibited under saddle.
- No hoof polish/black.
- 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.
- No drag permitted in Green Horse, 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

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.

SOCIAL MEDIAL 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.

CROSS ENTERING DIVISIONS:

GREEN RIDER - Walk/trot only. Horse/Rider combination **ineligible** to cross enter AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SNAFFLE BIT, INTERMEDIATE or OPEN classes. If competitor is an RHAA member and wishes to collect points, a RHAA Green Rider permit must be held to compete in this division and copy of permit must be supplied to committee at each show.

GREEN HORSE (to be ridden in snaffle bit & hackamore only) Horse with minimal show experience. Professional or nonprofessional riders.

INTERMEDIATE RIDER - Rider **ineligible** to cross enter GREEN RIDER classes. If competitor is an RHAA member and wishes to collect points, a RHAA Intermediate Rider permit must be held to compete in this division and copy of permit must be supplied to committee at each show.

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

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SNAFFLE BIT – Those entered in this division, can cross enter, Intermediate Rider / horse and Green 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 rules. Junior horses are horses five-years-old (5) and younger. Senior Horses are six-years (6) and older.

AMATEUR/SELECT/MASTERS:

Amateur - For those members of the Association, who are no longer eligible to exhibit in Youth classes, who are not professionals in the horse industry and who ride their horses for the pleasure of competing against other members who are also not professional.

Select Amateur - A person who has attained the age of 50 years and provides proof of age, which must be in the form of a copy of a driver's licence or birth certificate, who are not professionals in the horse industry and who ride their horses for the pleasure of competing against other members who are also not professional.

Masters Amateur - A person who has attained the age of 65 years and provides proof of age, which must be in the form of a copy of a driver's licence or birth certificate.

Person must be a financial member of the association and hold either an individual Full, Life or Honorary Life membership in their own name;

The amateur must agree as follows;

- Have not, in the previous three (3) years received remuneration or compensation for: Showing or training any horse or instructed any other person in riding, driving or exhibiting;

- Payment by another person for stable and or yard fees, bedding or camping fees will not be considered remuneration if the Amateur reimburses the payee;
- Prize money or judging fees will not be considered as remuneration;
- Amateurs may accept Sponsorship in the form of goods only. Exception would be Amateurs fundraising for a sanctioned RHAA event.

MASTERS OPEN:

MASTERS OPEN** – A class for riders **OVER 55 Years** old. All riders over this age are eligible for this class. This is a non-sanctioned class; meaning no points allocated.

Riders will be required to show their horses at the walk and trot only, no lope permitted. The purpose of this class is to encourage those older riders whom are new to riding and/or new to showing or returning from an accident/fall. No Ranch Cattle events or Ranch Reining for Masters Open.

- Any age horse may be ridden two handed in a Snaffle Bit or one handed in a Curb/Shank.
- Any 'safe' saddle, with the exclusion of bareback pads. Includes; English, Western, stock, fender or half breed saddles.
- Ownership of horse not required – a borrowed horse may be used (owner of the horse must be a financial member).

GREEN RIDER / GREEN HORSE:

Green Rider – A class for inexperienced riders, open riders are NOT eligible for this class. Riders will be required to show their horses at the walk and trot only, no lope permitted. The purpose of this class is to encourage those new to riding and/or new to showing. No Ranch Cattle events or Ranch Reining for Green Rider.

- Any age horse; may be ridden two handed in a *Snaffle Bit or hackamore*. (No curb/shank bits)
- Any 'safe' saddle, with the exclusion of bareback pads. Includes; English, Western, stock, fender or half breed saddles.
- Ownership of horse not required – a borrowed horse may be used BUT the owner of the horse and the exhibitor must be a financial member of RHASA.
- If competitor is an RHAA member and wishes to collect points, a RHAA Green Rider permit must be held to compete in this division and copy of permit must be supplied to committee at each show.

Green Horse. Open to all riders – professional and nonprofessional – wanting to bring inexperienced horses (3 Yr and over) into the show arena. Horses will be required to show at the walk, trot & lope.

- Any age horse may be ridden two handed in a *Snaffle Bit or hackamore*. (No curb/shank bits)
- Any 'safe' saddle, with the exclusion of bareback pads. Includes; English, Western, stock, fender or half breed saddles.
- Ownership of horse not required – a borrowed horse may be used BUT the owner of the horse and the exhibitor must be a financial member of RHASA.

INTERMEDIATE HORSE / INTERMEDIATE RIDER:

Intermediate Rider – A class for nonprofessional adult riders with some previous show experience, professional riders are NOT eligible for this class. Riders will be required to show their horses at the walk, trot & lope. Riders can ride in a snaffle, hackamore or a curb bit with split reins or a romal. Rider must not swap from one to two hands or vice versa during the class if riding in a curb bit. Those entered in this class **are ineligible for GREEN rider classes**.

- Horse may be ridden one or two handed in any legal headgear (see RHAA rules 'Gear')
- Rider must not swap from one to two hands or vice versa during the class
- Any safe saddle, with the exception of bareback pads. Includes; English, Western, stock, fender or half breed saddles permitted

- Ownership of horse not required – a borrowed horse may be used BUT the owner of the horse and the exhibitor must be a financial member of RHASA.

Intermediate Horse – Open to all riders – professional and nonprofessional. Horses with previous show experience may be shown in this class. Horses will be required to show at the walk, trot & lope.

- Horse may be ridden one or two handed in any legal headgear (see RHAA rules 'Gear)
- Rider must not swap from one to two hands or vice versa during the class
- Any safe saddle, with the exception of bareback pads. Includes; English, Western, stock, fender or half breed saddles permitted
- Ownership of horse not required – a borrowed horse may be used BUT the owner of the horse must be a financial member of RHASA.

HERITAGE SNAFFLE BIT:

Heritage Snaffle Bit - Open to horses 3 years and over. Ridden two handed in a snaffle bit regardless of horses age. Equipment: Fender or stock saddle only. (NO western saddles permitted). The purpose of this class is to encourage experienced riders from other disciplines, without necessitating the need to purchase a western saddle. Those entered in this division, if eligible, can cross enter, Intermediate Rider, Intermediate Youth, Green Horse and Intermediate Horse.

YOUTH / BEGINNER YOUTH / INTERMEDIATE YOUTH:

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

Green Youth – A class for inexperienced Youth riders. Open to Youth up to 18 years as at 1st August. Riders will be required to show their horses at the walk & trot only. Must have written permission from their parent/guardian to compete. Parent/guardian must sign the entry form. All Youth competing or taking part in an RHAA sanctioned event must be in the care of a responsible adult who is in attendance for the duration of that event, whilst the Youth attends that event. The purpose of this class is to encourage Youth who are new to riding and/or new to showing in Ranch events.

Intermediate Youth – A class for Youth riders with some previous show experience. Open to Youth riders up to 18 years as at 1st August. Riders will be required to show their horses at the walk, trot & lope.

- Horse may be ridden one or two handed in any legal headgear (see RHAA rules 'Gear)
- Rider must not swap from one to two hands or vice versa during the class
- Any safe saddle, with the exception of bareback pads. Includes; English, Western, stock, fender or half breed saddles permitted
- Ownership of horse not required – a borrowed horse may be used BUT the owner of the horse must be a financial member of RHASA.

YOUTH - Open to all Youth 7 to 18 years of age. If one (1) class is held to be: 7 to 18 years old if two (2) classes held: 7 to 13 years and 14 to 18 years. Must have written permission from their parent/guardian to be at that event. All Youth competing or taking part in an RHAA sanctioned event must be in the care of a responsible adult who is in attendance for the duration of that event, whilst the Youth attends that event. Youth **MUST** ride in correct headgear and attire as per RHAA Rules. A Youth can show non-owned horses in Youth classes and Open classes. The owner of the horse must be a financial member of the RHASA. Riders will be required to walk, trot & lope. Riders are to be one handed in a shank bit on a senior horse; two handed in a snaffle on a junior horse.

LEADLINE:

Leadline: Leadline horse MUST be lead by a person 18 years or older. 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. Riders under the age of 7

ALL AGE / OPEN:

All Age / Open: Western saddles compulsory. All other equipment requirements per the RHAA rules. Open to all riders, professional and non-professional. Horses are required to walk, trot and lope.

Junior and senior horse rules as per RHAA:

- Junior horses: 3 to 5 years. Horse's five-years-old (5) and younger maybe shown in a Snaffle bit, Hackamore, curb bit (one handed), half-breed or spade bit.
- Senior Horse: 6 years and over. Horse's six-years (6) and older can only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed, romal, or spade bit.

All Age Open maybe offered in place of or in additional to Junior and Senior horse.

ATTIRE:

WESTERN ATTIRE MANDATORY; (All divisions)

- long sleeve collared shirt - half or full button or zipper, Collar = band, stand-up, tuxedo etc
- 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, and spurs, chinks and chaps in ridden classes.

RHASA 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 by the RHASA secretary via email and our Facebook site.

RHASA 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.
- There will be no transferring of monies paid to any future events if you are unable to attend the event you have paid for.
- Exceptional circumstances may be considered by the RHASA committee but need to be submitted via email to the RHASA Secretary.

RHASA 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.

RHASA STALLION POLICY:

STRICTLY NO STALLION 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.

RHASA 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

RHASA 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.

Happy Ranching!