



South Australian Harness Racing Pony Association

RULES AND REGULATIONS MANUAL



Updated August 2011

South Australian Harness Racing Pony Association

(Hereafter called Association)

Affiliated Clubs

(Hereafter called Clubs)

South Australian Harness Racing Club

Kapunda Harness Racing Club

Mount Gambier Harness Racing Club

Port Pirie Harness Racing Club

Strathalbyn Harness Racing Club

Victor Harbor Harness Racing Club

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1 **AIMS**

The South Australian Harness Racing Pony Association commenced in South Australia in 1985 and has been conducted continuously since that date.

The aims of the Association are to foster the sport of pony racing for children between the ages of 6 to 16 years and to promote friendly competition in an atmosphere of co-operation and good sportsmanship and to encourage social interaction for all concerned.

Children are also taught the art of horsemanship and all aspects of adult Harness Racing competition.

2 **HOT WEATHER POLICY**

If 38 degrees or above is forecast on Adelaide 5RPH (1197 am) the morning of the event, the pony races for that day/night will be cancelled.

3 **STARTING TIMES**

All pony races are held after the first harness race unless an early start (eg 5.50 pm) and then the first pony race would start at 6.20 pm.

4 **SAFETY**

Ponies left in stalls are to be tied up with a head collar and two leads securely.

All ponies are to be either walked or slowly trotted around the parade ring, as to not endanger other ponies and drivers.

Ponies are to be led to and from the race track gate with a lead and responsible handler when competing.

Any person whilst driving a horse or pony on a registered racecourse must wear an approved helmet, this includes racetrack surrounds and parade ring *by order Harness Racing SA*.

It is highly recommended that protective vests are worn by participants due to the nature of the sport.

No more than ten (10) ponies in a race. Extra ponies in fields will only be allowed for "special nights" (eg Gawler Cup, Kapunda Cup etc).

5 **SCRATCHINGS**

A courtesy phone call to handicapper or email saponytrots@yahoo.com.au if unable to attend a meeting.

6 **ELIGIBILITY**

6.1 **PONIES**

Ponies of any breed (except stallions and colts) excluding standardbreds measuring 13 hands or under may compete in the OPEN section.

Ponies of the Shetland type (except stallions and colts) measuring 10.2 hands or under, may compete in the Shetland section providing there is a vacancy in the Shetland field.

Ponies should be presented in a healthy respectable appearance fit to race. Failure to do so may result in officials not allowing ponies to compete for a period they deem fit.

Ponies will be required to pay annual membership of \$15 per season.

Before a new pony is eligible to race it must trial first, and then have two Saturday nights to determine its class. After two starts ponies will be handicapped accordingly at the discretion of the handicapping committee. Points will accrue from the first Globe Derby Park race meeting where there are the 4 mandatory class events.

6.2 **MEASURING OF PONIES**

All new ponies to be presented for measuring prior to the commencement of their first race.

All ponies presented for measurement shall be in a sound, healthy and calm state.

Ponies can be either wearing shoes or barefooted.

Where the measurer is not satisfied with the presentation/condition of the pony, the matter shall be brought to the attention of Harness Racing SA representative, who shall take whatever action he deems necessary.

The design of the measuring stick and the use of the stick shall be approved by Harness Racing SA.

All measuring must be undertaken on a flat, level and hard surface (eg concrete slab) which has been laid in a horizontal plane.

The pony shall, stand up square, with legs perpendicular to the ground, the forelegs in line and the weight distributed evenly over all legs. The pony must not be stretched out.

The poll must not be lower than the highest point of the wither at the time of measurement.

The measurers will make an allowance of up to ¼" for shoes, (pony must be shod on all 4 feet for this allowance).

The measurement must be taken when the poll is level with the withers. The measurement shall be taken at the highest point of the withers.

If a pony measures right on ½" mark the height will be recorded as down to the nearest inch.

6.3 DRIVERS

All drivers must be current financial members of the Association to be permitted to compete in events. All financial members of the Association are permitted to compete with any affiliated Club of the Association.

No child is permitted to compete in races before the age of six (6) years of age. If turning sixteen (16) years from 1st July a driver is eligible to compete to the end of that season.

Children wishing to drive in pony races must produce proof of age at the time of joining.

Permission to drive consent forms are to be completed and signed by Parents/Guardians before child is permitted to trial or drive in a race. Forms are to be submitted each season.

Before a being allowed to race, drivers must perform satisfactorily before the stewards in a trial with at least 2 other starters. This will include rein use in close company, various passing manoeuvres, circling on the track, standing up and moving away quietly in company, ie attending trials that are near as possible to race conditions and demonstrating to the appointed person that the driver can handle the pony and that the pony is tractable to compete in a race.

Drivers must ensure they have sufficient racing room, at least a cart and a half, to go between two ponies in a race.

6.4 DRESS

Colours are to be made of racing type material and must be worn in a presentable fashion both on and off the track. Colours must be included on the entry form for racing.

All drivers must wear suitable protective headwear approved by Standards Australia.

All drivers required to wear enclosed leather boots (no laces) when competing.

All drivers must wear white pants.

6.5 CONVERSANT WITH RULES

Owners, Trainers, Drivers and Parents/Guardians of the children must be conversant with the Rules and Regulations Manual and must abide by them.

7 RULES OF RACING

7.1 EQUIPMENT

Sulkies are to have 20" wheels and be fitted with plastic wheel discs.

All sulkies must have a dust sheet made of acceptable material and be worn when competing. If you wish for an exemption to this rule, please outline a reasonable explanation in writing and forward to The Secretary which will then be discussed by the SAHRPA Committee for approval.

Stewards shall inspect all gear before racing and will not permit a pony to race until they are satisfied with the quality and presentation of pony and driver.

PONY GEAR – APPROVED

Bandages	Boots – Pastern
Bit	Boots – Scalping
Blinkers – Blocked	Boots – Shin/Tendon
Blinkers – Can't See Bak	Breastplate/Buxom
Blinkers – Dolly Vardon	Bucking/Kicking Strap
Blinkers - European	Cavesham
Blinkers – Hood	Chin Rest
Blinkers – Mesh Goggles	Crupper
Blinkers – Pelling Pacifiers	Deafeners – Fixed Hood
Blinkers – Telescopic	Deafeners – Fixed Plugs
Boots – Bell	Elbow Pads
Boots – Bumper	Fly Veil
Boots – Knee	Gaiting Strap

Headcheck – Fixed
Headcheck – None
Headcheck – Running
Martingale/Undercheck
Neck Strap
Nose Band – Conventional
Nose Band – Drop

Nose Band – Figure 8
Reins
Rearing Strap
Saddle
Shadow Roll
Tail Tie
Tongue Tie

PONY GEAR – NOT APPROVED

Anti Choking Device
Bars Reins
Blinkers (All Slide, Pull Up, Spring Loaded etc)
Deafeners – Removable Plugs
Deafeners – Removable Hood
Headcheck – Release Pin

Lugging Pole
Mouth Burrs/Cheekers
Murphy Blind
Nasal Flare
Neck Strap with Pricker
Rein Burrs/Prickers

7.2 HANDICAPPING

Ponies may be handicapped using a 500 metre front mark for Shetlands and either 600 or 800 metre front mark for Open class ponies as decided by the Committee. All ponies go back 10 metres for each win. There is no limit as to how far a pony can win back to. After three consecutive unplaced runs a pony comes forward 10 metres.

When the Association runs a combined Shetland/Open race the front will be subject to the discretion of the handicapping committee.

Ponies may be handicapped using Metres Per Second (mps) formula. Ponies to achieve (mps) handicap by dividing starting handicap mark by numbers of seconds timed to cover distance. This rating then is multiplied by the base mark of 150. This should give race time of 2 min 30 sec. All ponies 13 hands and under high may compete in the same division and no front mark will be required.

The winner of any “Cup Race” conducted by the Association shall be penalised ten (10) metres for the next cup race.

At the discretion of the handicapping committee a pony may be brought forward to help it finish with field.

7.3 STEWARDS AND STARTERS

All competitors must **ABIDE** by the stewards decision at all times and their decision is final.

If any pony by misbehaviour or for any other reason is in the opinion of the Starter liable to cause a delay to the start, the starter will warn the driver and shall not further delay the start.

The Starters decision shall be final and conclusive upon any question that may arise as to whether the pony should have started in the race.

The Starter shall give all such orders and take such measures as he/she may consider necessary for securing a fair start and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing the Starter:

“may disqualify a driver disobeying the Starters orders or attempting to take an unfair advantage in the start”

“shall report to the Stewards any driver who starts before the signal is given or who starts off the incorrect mark”

“may, if he/she considers that the start in the race is unsatisfactory declare a false start and re-start the race”

A driver who permits his/her pony to start in advance of its proper mark or before the start signal is given or attempts to take an unfair advantage at the start shall be guilty of an offence and will be relegated to last position. The Starter must notify any breach of the pending rule to the Stewards before all clear is given who will take the appropriate action.

The Starter shall have control of the ponies from the time they enter the track until the start of the race.

An attendant that attempts to drive a pony away by slapping, yelling, pushing or hinder the progress of any other pony will cause that pony to be relegated to last position. Attendants may hold a pony on the extreme outside of the track and must immediately move to the extremity of the track as not to obstruct other runners.

When the Starter raises the flag all ponies should go to their mark ready to start. When the Starter drops his/her flag this is the signal to commence racing.

7.4 RACING RULES

No whips are permitted whilst on a race track for the purpose of 'warming up' or competing.

No competitor will be permitted to have a passenger on the side of the sulky at any time.

All drivers whilst in the sulky must drive throughout the race and back to the stall area and parade ring with both feet in the foot rests provided on the sulky and must sit on the end of the reins. Drivers may be reprimanded, suspended or disqualified for breach of this rule.

If a pony gains ground whilst out of a trotting gait the Stewards shall determine the amount of ground gained and deduct this from the pony at the finishing post and amend the places if necessary. A pony which performs out of a trotting gait for a total of 50 metres during a race may be placed at the rear of the field.

A driver shall not cause an opponent to be disadvantaged during a race through the actions of their pony, eg contact being made to an opposing pony, driver or its racing equipment, making undue noise so as to cause opponents pony to loose ground.

If the Stewards decide that an offence has been committed under this clause they may:

- Disqualify the pony from the event
- Place the pony in any finishing order they consider appropriate
- Reprimand driver

A pony may be disqualified from a race or placed behind any other competitor in the race if allowed to cross in front of any other pony without being clear of them, interfere wilfully or accidentally with any other pony, force another pony out of its ground, make a break in gait and allowed to gain ground, failing to keep a straight course when clear in the home straight, race or gain ground inside the peg line.

Protests can only be lodged with the Stewards within 10 minutes on completing the event/race.

Returning to scale, drivers are requested to return in placed order 1st, 2nd and 3rd then receive medals/ribbons and have photo taken.

7.5 MISCONDUCT

Persons engaged in pony racing events are reminded that when they are competing at or attending licensed Harness Racing Meetings are under the jurisdiction of Harness Racing SA and would view misconduct in a most serious light.

Parental intervention and/or parental abuse **will** lead to the suspension of a pony for a period to be determined by the Committee. At the discretion of the Association depending on the severity of circumstances of a pony and/or parent may be fined, suspended, or disqualified.

No alcohol is permitted near stalls and/or around drivers whilst racing.

Any driver found guilty of either using bad or abusive language towards other drivers or officials will be suspended for a period determined by the Stewards.

Any driver found guilty of cheating or assisting each other will be suspended for a period determined by the Stewards.

8 GENERAL

Notwithstanding any rule herein before the Association committee may rule and act in a way they believe is in the best interests of pony racing and all persons involved in pony racing.

Any member who has a grievance with the Association shall present same in writing to the Committee, care of the Secretary, with full facts.

The Association may reject Membership and or a nomination without assigning any reason. Any person refused the right of membership or nomination may appeal the Association.

Non attendance of a committee member to monthly meetings for three meetings in a row with no reasonable explanation may be removed and a new committee member appointed.

The positions of Office Bearers can only be filled by Committee Members that have previously held a position on the committee (past or present) for a minimum of 12 months or more.

POSITIONS

Handicappers – two Committee members required

Measurers – two Committee members to measure and forward information to Secretary and Website

Stewards – two persons not connected to families racing

Timekeepers – a competent person is required to time every runner in every race so that ponies can be properly handicapped for Fun Days. A multi-function stopwatch to be used so that one person can time all runners.

Starters – the track should be marked all the way round the track every ten metres from the 380m mark. One person required.

Broadcasters – Professionals are not necessary, any youth wishing to help out are welcome.

Judges – two persons required to stand on the finishing line. One to call out numbers as ponies cross the line and the other to write numbers down.

Sponsors – two people required to hand out medals/ribbons and to have photo taken on track. One to hold ponies head while the other presents driver.

Photographer – required to take photos for website and sponsors

Volunteers – Place and set up bins, flags, A-Frame, numbers, fields etc

If you are able to help out please see one of the Committee members as Volunteers are always very welcomed.