

RIDDEN PARTBRED PONY OF THE YEAR

Background

This class will recognise and promote quality ridden ponies whose breeding in part is either Arab or Welsh, or a combination of both. Purebred Arab or Welsh animals are excluded from this class.

Eligibility

The class is for pony stallions, mares or geldings aged four years old and over, registered within the partbred section of the Arab Horse Society and/or the Welsh Pony & Cob Stud Books. Owners and riders must be members of either National Pony Society (NPS), Ponies (UK), The Showing Register, British Show Pony Society (BSPS), Arab Horse Society (AHS) or Welsh Pony and Cob Society (WPCS).

A copy of the pony's passport, showing its registration or overstepping with either the Arab Horse Society or Welsh Pony & Cob Society, must be logged with Grandstand Media Ltd prior to entry in any qualifying round.

The class is limited to ponies measuring 148cms or under. All animals competing in the final at Horse of the Year Show must enclose a copy of a current/valid JMB height certificate with their entry.

Open to riders of any age. However, there will be a minimum age of 14 years for riders competing with stallions at qualifiers or the final.

Judges' Guidelines

Since this class is defined by breeding, it would be inappropriate to define the Ridden Partbred Pony as any specific type. Instead, it should be described first and foremost as a pony showing true pony characteristics, which is suitable for riding, with excellent conformation and free flowing movement, as well as quality. The amount of bone possessed should be proportionate to the overall build of the pony. In terms of performance, the Ridden Partbred Pony should demonstrate qualities of obedience and control at all times, while exhibiting excellence in all four paces without an over-emphasis in any one of them.

Importantly, due to the potentially small percentage of either Arab or Welsh in a partbred eligible for registration, the Ridden Partbred Pony need not show any evidence of its back breeding and should not be rewarded specifically if it does. In other words, Arab or Welsh partbreds need not be either Arab or Welsh, respectively, in their appearance.

All ponies should have plaited manes, with tails plaited or pulled at the discretion of the exhibitor. Ponies should wear coloured brow bands.

All riders should wear formal showing attire – for the purposes of uniformity, Tweed would be deemed inappropriate.

When competing, ponies should enter as a class and initially show their paces in walk, trot and canter as a group. They should then be assessed individually, using a mark system, in two phases: Phase 1) for performance (50 marks) and Phase 2) for conformation, movement and quality (50 marks). Marks will be tallied and, in the event of a tie, the performance mark will have preference for the final placing. Ponies will not be ridden by the judge.

All judges currently listed on the HOYS ridden pony panels of the NPS, Ponies (UK) and BSPS will be eligible to judge qualifiers. Judges from the *ridden* panels of either the AHS or WPCS will also be eligible to judge the class. We advise that two judges are used to judge the class, one for Performance and one for Conformation.

Qualifiers

In accordance with HOYS practice, allocation of the qualifiers will be held at the discretion of Grandstand Media Ltd. Qualifying classes will be allocated to include those for Partbred Arabs alone, Partbred Welsh alone or a combination of both.

HOYS rules will apply at both the qualifiers and the final.

Future developments

Depending on the success of this pilot class and on timetable availability, a decision will be taken at some point in the future regarding the staging of a similar class for larger animals, as well as the expansion of the eligible partbred studbooks.

Specific notes for judges

Judges should take into account all the usual aspects of judging a ridden show class. However, there are several specific aspects of the competition which should be taken into account when judging both the qualifiers and the final. They include:

1. As performance is a key element of this competition, judges should take manners and way of going into account during the initial "go round". This should be reflected in the marks for Phase 1 of the competition.
2. During individual performances, ponies should demonstrate all the qualities of an obedient, enjoyable ride as well as the ability to successfully execute a set show. Judges' marks in Phase 1 should reflect this and disobedience, lapse of manners or failure to execute the set show should be penalised.

3. While all paces of the pony should be demonstrated clearly during the individual performance, no particular emphasis should be placed on any one pace (such as the gallop).
4. This class is specifically aimed at ponies so judges should be careful to heavily penalise in Phase 2 those animals showing horse characteristics (horsey head and long cannon bones).
5. This class is defined by breeding, rather than by type. Therefore, judges should not look for a specific type (such as show pony or hunter pony) but judge each exhibit on its individual merits based on conformation, movement, quality and performance.
6. Judges are reminded that they are judging ponies of mixed breeding of which only a very small percentage needs to be either Arab or Welsh (native if preferred) in origin. It is the product of using bloodlines from distinct breeds which is important and not the breed itself. As a result, judges must not specifically look for Arab or Welsh characteristics in the Ridden Partbred Pony and should not reward any if they do.
7. Sound, well-constructed limbs are an important aspect of any show animal, partbred ponies being no exception. Ponies should have sufficient bone, which is in proportion to its overall build. Both these points should be reflected in the marks allocated in Phase 2.
8. As free-flowing movement is an important characteristic of any riding animal, ponies should demonstrate this and be marked accordingly in Phase 2 of the competition.