



**WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY,
AFRICA**

**WALLIESE PONIE EN COB
GENOOTSKAP, AFRIKA**

**SHOWING RULES
SKOUREELS**

August, 2016

SHOWING RULES

A THE JUDGE

It is an honour to be invited to judge and such judges must take full responsibility for their actions at all times. The appointment signifies that the judge is of sufficient calibre in terms of their ability, behaviour, appearance, relationship with show organisers, stewards, exhibitors/owners and the media.

Gaining respect is very much in the hand of the individual judge. Respect most often is gained through (a) judging with total fairness showing no bias towards animal or person, (b) being courteous at all times to show organisers, stewards, exhibitors and fellow judges, and (c) showing discretion when expressing views or discussing any aspect of judging.

A judge should always:

Be punctual

Dress appropriately for judging – clean, tidy and practical

Avoid from standing with hands in pockets

Avoid meeting exhibitors/handlers prior to judging them

Avoid areas of the showground where animals may be located prior to judging

Give every exhibitor the same amount of time when judging his/her animal

Treat every exhibitor on equal terms and avoid any social conversation

Discuss procedure for the ring with the ring steward

In In-Hand classes, advise steward where the animals should be trotted out

Advise steward where animals should line up but always left to right

Give clear instructions to the stewards so they in turn can inform exhibitors

A judge knows that his/her integrity is beyond question so through his/her action he/she should make sure that it is seen to be the case. A judge should have presence in the ring and be seen to have full control in readiness of any situation that may occur while judging.

B BREED DESCRIPTIONS

WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY (SECTION A)

Not exceeding 12 hands high (1,22m)

General Character	Hardy, spirited and pony-like
Colour	Any colour, except piebald or skewbald
Head	Small, clean-cut and tapering to the muzzle
Eyes	Bold
Ears	Well-placed, small and pointed; well up on the head, proportionally close
Nostrils	Prominent and open
Jaws and Throat	Clean and finely-cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw
Neck	Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions
Shoulders	Long and sloping well back. Withers moderately fine, but not “knifey”. The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body

Forelegs	Set square and true, and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below the knee, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped and round, hoofs dense
Back and Loins	Muscular, strong and well-coupled
Girth	Deep
Ribs	Well sprung
Hind Quarters	Lengthy and fine. Not cobby, ragged or goose-rumped. Tail well set on and carried gaily
Hocks	Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate shape and length. Feet well-shaped, hoofs dense
Action	Quick, free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front. Knees and hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage with hocks well under the body. (The introduction of the word knee into the description of the movement of a Welsh Mountain Pony is a deliberate endeavour to emphasize the true action of the breed rather than the daisy-cutting movement which has crept in over the last few years. The active flexion of both knees and hocks, originally developed to negotiate the rocks and uneven terrain of the Welsh Mountains is a vital part of this action and it is equally important that the pony's hocks must come well under the body with powerful force to propel it forward with the characteristic free up and out movement associated with the Welsh breeds)

WELSH PONY OF RIDING TYPE (SECTION B)

Not exceeding 13.2 hands high (1,37m)

The general description of ponies in Section A of the Stud Book is applicable to those in Section B, but more particularly the Section B shall be described as a riding pony, with quality, riding action, adequate bone and substance, hardiness and constitution and with pony character

WELSH PONY OF COB TYPE (SECTION C)

No exceeding 13.2h high (1,37m)

WELSH COB (SECTION D)

General Character	Strong, hardy and active with pony character and as much substance as possible
Colour	Any colour, except piebald and skewbald
Head	Full of quality and pony character. A coarse head and roman nose are most objectionable
Eyes	Bold, prominent and set widely apart
Ears	Neat and well set
Neck	Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions
Shoulders	Strong but well laid back
Forelegs	Set square and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearms. Knees well developed with an abundance of bone below them, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped, hoofs dense. When in the rough, a moderate quality of silky feather is not objected to but coarse, wiry hair is a definite objection
Back and Loins	Muscular, strong and well-coupled. Deep through the heart and well-ribbed up
Hind quarters	Lengthy and strong. Ragged and drooping quarters are objectionable..Tail well-set on
Hindlegs	Second thighs, strong and muscular. Hocks large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate shape and length. Feet well-shaped, hoofs dense

Action	Free, true and forcible. The knee should be bent and the whole foreleg should be extended straight from the shoulder, and as far forward as possible in the trot. Hocks flexed under the body with straight and powerful leverage
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WELSH PART-BRED

There is no breed type for animals recorded within the Welsh Part-Bred section of the Stud Book. Therefore they should be judged as performance animals with an emphasis placed on sound conformation and movement as well as suitability for a show or performance discipline they are likely to undertake. They should also demonstrate the characteristics of the Welsh Breed.

C RULES FOR JUDGES

A Judge must:

- 1 Desist from judging if he/she is not medically/physically/mentally fit
- 2 Be conversant with these Showing Rules. If any doubts arise at a show he/she must refer to these Showing Rules for clarification
- 3 At all times adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Society
- 4 Not (nor his/her immediate family) compete or exhibit at that show
- 5 Not refer to the show catalogue prior to or during judging
- 6 Not accept any hospitality from an exhibitor at a show where he is judging
- 7 Be smartly dressed at all times during the show where he/she is judging; casual clothing is deemed inappropriate. Jeans are not acceptable.
- 8 Wear a hat when judging
- 9 Not smoke, use a mobile phone or wear an earpiece whilst in the ring
- 10 Present rosettes unless a sponsor is requested to do so. It is the judge's prerogative to withhold rosettes if he/she feels entries are of insufficient merit
- 11 Remain impartial at all times by not judging an animal (a) bred by him/her, (b) previously owned, produced, leased by him/her, (c) with which he/she has had any financial involvement; livery, handling, and schooling are included but NOT stud fees, (d) which has been owned, bred, leased by his immediate family, (e) that any member of his immediate family or employer has bred, leased, produced or had a financial involvement with that animal
- 12 Not judge a person who has ridden, driven or produced in hand for him/her in the previous and/or current show seasons
- 13 Take firm action (a) against any exhibitor who withdraws their animal from the ring before the class has ended, (b) where an unruly animal in his/her opinion is likely to cause an accident which he/she should dismiss from the class (c) against any exhibit whose performance is enhanced/potentially enhanced by artificial aids or outside assistance: plastic bags, excessive or abnormal use of the whip, noise producing objects all being deemed artificial aids. Such exhibits may be dismissed

from the class, and such action will be fully supported by the Society. After taking the necessary firm action the judge must report the incident to the Society.

D RULES FOR EXHIBITORS, OWNERS AND PRODUCERS

Showing is the main shop window for the Welsh breeds and as such attracts a huge amount of public interest. Therefore exhibitors must conduct themselves at all times in an orderly, polite manner as they represent the Welsh breeds and consequently the Society. Everyone involved with showing are deemed to be fully conversant with the Codes of Conduct. Any breaches will be severely dealt with by the Society. Bad behaviour to fellow exhibitors, owners, producers, judges, stewards or show officials brings the Society into disrepute.

- 1 Owners, exhibitors, riders, whips and handlers must thoroughly investigate past connections of their exhibits to avoid breaches with the rules dealing with impartiality during judging.
- 2 An exhibitor must not enter any animal bred by the judge, previously owned or produced or leased by the judge or with which the judge had any financial connection such as livery/handling/schooling
- 3 An exhibitor or producer must not enter any animal under a judge whose immediate family or employer owned, bred, leased or produced that animal
- 4 Substitutions and nomination of entries are not allowed
- 5 The welfare of their pony and cob is paramount and no heavily pregnant mares, lame, sick or overly fat/thin animal should be brought to the show or into a class
- 6 Exhibitors must not approach the judge on the day of the show
- 7 A change or handler or rider/whip is not allowed once the class has commenced, except in exceptional circumstance (injury or illness)
- 8 Exhibitors must comply with the steward's or judge's requests at all times
- 9 Exhibitors should be dressed neatly and circumspectly; collar and tie compulsory. A judge is empowered to ask an exhibitor to leave the ring if considered inappropriately dressed. Blue jeans are not allowed
- 10 Exhibitors must not wear clothing displaying any form of advertising
- 11 Exhibitors must display the correct number for the animal they are showing
- 12 An exhibitor must not leave the ring prior to the completion of judging unless instructed by the judge or steward. A class is complete when the judge requests the class to be dismissed
- 13 Exhibitors must not use any form of artificial aids to aid the showing of their animals. Plastic bags, excessive or abnormal use of whips, noise producing objects are all deemed to be artificial aids. Outside assistance

- using similar aids is also forbidden and judges are empowered to ask exhibitors making use of such assistance to leave the ring. Judges will receive the full support of the Society
- 14 Exhibitors must have their animals under control at all times. If in the Judge's opinion an unruly animal is likely to cause an accident, the judge has the power to ask that the animal leaves the ring.
- 15 A judge's decision is final, Any objections must be lodged officially according to the Society's rules

E SHOWING RULES: GENERAL

These rules/guidelines are aimed to assist show secretaries, judges and exhibitors participating at shows affiliated to the Society and must take precedence over other societies' rules when medals are awarded

- 1 These rules take precedent over the rules of any show-holding body
- 2 Only fully paid members of the Society are eligible to participate in any shows under the auspices of the Society
- 3 Only ponies which are registered/recorded and those in the process of being registered/recorded, all the necessary documentation having being submitted to the Secretary of the Society, shall be eligible to participate in shows under the auspices of the Society
- 4 Ponies must be entered in the name of the current owner unless a valid Notification of Transfer form has been received by the Secretary
- 5 Ponies which have been officially leased with a valid Notification of Lease having been received by the Secretary are to be entered in the name of the Lessee
- 6 The age of any pony, rider and driver shall be determined as at the first day of the show
- 7 No late or electronically submitted entries will be accepted
- 8 No entries will be accepted without the required entry fee
- 9 Freeze branding – the Society has no objection to ponies and cobs being branded and this must not be detrimental to animals in the show, and is encouraged by the Society
- 10 Age of animal – the age of the animal per the passport and for a specific class, the age of the animal on the first day of that show
- 11 Soundness – if an animal in a class is, in the opinion of the judge, unsound, the judge shall, at his/her discretion, require the exhibitor to withdraw the animal from that class or place it at the end of the line. The judge's decision in this matter is final
- 12 Show ring production – the show ring is the well-established and much valued shop window and without exception all animals should be well turned out for the competition. However, it must always be foremost in terms of show ring production that the overall image has to be in keeping

within the natural beauty of the Welsh breed. The 'native image' is easily lost when the production is inappropriate for a Welsh breed. Unduly pulled and shortened manes and tails detract from this look as does clipping of body hair. Exhibitors and judges alike should be aware that production of this nature serves to do the Welsh breeds and injustice in the show ring. Any act of production which looks artificial and detracts from the Welsh look and the use of cosmetic products, should be discouraged. Judges are empowered to and must penalize any exhibit which, in their opinion, detracts from the natural beauty of the Welsh breeds

- 13 Trimming for Shows – It is acceptable for Welsh breeds to be trimmed under the jaw line, round the muzzle and protruding from the ears. Youngstock must not be body clipped.
- 14 Clipping – Animals which have been clipped for winter activities can be shown and should not be penalized. Judges must take special note of this. Legs must not be clipped. Youngstock must not be body clipped. Artificial changes to the original markings of an animal as recorded on the Passport will not be allowed, nor the addition of false manes and tails
- 15 Plaiting – manes and tails must not be plaited with the exception of an optional single plait behind the ear for Section A, B, C and D. Welsh Part-bred animals should be plaited; however, this is optional, as it would be normal for Welsh part-breds to be shown with a full mane and tail
- 16 Whips and Canes – the shaft of the whip or cane must not exceed 110cm
- 17 Blood – the drawing of any blood will lead to elimination
- 18 Prohibited Substances – any prohibited substances in the tissue, hair, skin, body fluids, excreta or body of an animal at any level or quantity shall be a breach of these rules. Strong action will be taken against the owner concerned and all results will be deleted and prize money forfeited of all the ponies of that owner at that show
- 19 Hoofs for ponies under 137cm in height may not exceed 95mm in length unshod and 100mm shod whilst ponies over 137cm and higher the hoofs may not exceed 110mm unshod and 114mm shod
- 20 For ponies under 137cm in height the shoes may not exceed 250g whilst the shoes of ponies 137cm and higher may not exceed 500g
- 21 No trick shoes, pads, hooks, bars and loading are permitted
- 22 Conduct - where an unruly animal is likely to cause an accident, the judge is empowered and must ask it to leave the ring without reward

F SHOWING RULES: IN-HAND

- 1 An In-Hand class is closed and animals are not allowed to enter the ring when the last pony has completed its trot prior to being lined up

- 2 In the interests of safety, all colts and stallions, two years and over must be suitable bitted
- 3 For colts/stallions, the use of stallion show tack is optional. A judge may ask for the roller, crupper and side reins to be removed
- 4 Foals accompanying their dam must be at least three weeks of age and may not be shod
- 5 A stallion over four years of age will only be permitted to enter Breed Classes if he has a Stallion Certificate which must be in the possession of the Society before the closing date for entries
- 6 A stallion over eight years of age will not be allowed to enter a breed class unless he has produced at least one registered foal, unless a Veterinary Surgeon certifies that a mare is in foal to such stallion which certificate must be in the possession of the Society before the closing date for entries
- 7 A Mare over eight years of age will not be allowed to enter a breed class unless she has produced one registered foal
- 8 Geldings may only compete in their own classes
- 9 Geldings may only compete in gelding championship classes
- 10 Youngstock under 4 years of age may be shown in white webbing or rope show halter, leather head collar or show bridle but two and three year old colts must be bitted
- 11 Mares and geldings four years or over may be shown in white webbing or rope show halter, leather head collar/slip, show bridle or riding bridle
- 12 Foals should be led in a halter or leather headcollar/slip. They may never be bitted
- 13 For colts/stallions the use of show tack is optional. A judge may ask for the roller, crupper and side reins to be removed

G SHOWING RULES: RIDDEN

- 1 Mares with suckling foal are not eligible to compete in ridden classes
- 2 All animals competing in ridden classes must be at least four years old
- 3 Spurs must not be worn in any Society affiliated riding showing class
- 4 Hat. A correctly secured FEI approved riding hat must be worn at all times when mounted. A competitor whose hat comes off, or chin strap comes undone whilst competing must, on penalty of elimination, replace it or fasten it before continuing. The rider may dismount without penalty to recover the hat or have it passed up from the ground, or may stop without penalty to fasten the chin strap.
- 5 A pony showing any bleeding will be eliminated and asked to leave the ring
- 6 Jewellery must not be worn

- 7 The class is closed when the class goes into a trot and no further ponies must be allowed in to the ring
- 8 Riders must not remove their animals from the ring during judging, without the judge's permission; the class ends when the judge requests the class to be dismissed
- 9 Once judging has commenced, if a pony leaves the ring, it will be eliminated from the class
- 10 Where an unruly animal is likely to cause an accident, the judge has the power to ask that the animal leave the ring
- 11 When a rider has been unseated or fallen from his/her animal, the rider cannot re-mount in the ring. The animal must be led out of the ring and cannot re-join the class. No change of rider will be allowed during the class
- 12 Ridden Dress: The overall impression should be smart, appropriate, safe and comfortable
- a. Jodhpurs: cream or fawn breeches or jodhpurs; style of boots optional
 - b. Jacket
 - c. Shirt: light shirt with collar and tie
 - d. Gloves, crop or showing cane: optional
- 13 No martingales, boots, bandages, cruppers or breastplates will be allowed except that in the jumping phase of working hunter class where over-reach or brushing boots and/or bandages may be used.
- 14 Only bits shown on schedule to these rules will be allowed. Bits which are very narrow or sharp or those with cheek-pieces longer than 10cm will not be allowed
- 15 Classification: Lead Rein
- a. Open to registered Welsh Section A or B (in the case of Pure bred classes), or recorded Partbreds (in the case of Partbred classes) mares or geldings not exceeding 121.9cm (12hh)
 - b. Rider must have attained their 3rd birthday but not have attained their 9th birthday on the first day of the show
 - c. The leader who must be over 12 years old is to be neatly and suitably dressed
 - d. No cross-entries are allowed with lead rein entries
 - e. Ponies to be shown in a snaffle bridle – the reins to go directly from the bit to the rider's hands
 - f. The lead rein must be attached to the noseband only; no extra attachment to the saddle
 - g. Carrying of a cane or a crop is not allowed
 - h. Classes shall be ridden at a walk and a trot
- 16 Classification: First Ridden

- a. Open to registered Welsh Section A or B (in the case of Pure bred classes), or recorded Partbreds (in the case of partbred classes) mares or geldings, not exceeding 128cm (12.2hh)
 - b. Riders must not have attained their 12th birthday before the first day of the show
 - c. Ponies must be shown in a suitable bridle
 - d. Ponies must not be cantered except in their individual show
- 17 Classification: Three-Gaited Classes
- a. Ponies shall be judged at a walk, trot and canter
- 18 Classification: Ridden Welsh Pony
- a. Ponies shall be judged at a walk, trot and canter. At the judge's discretion, ponies may be asked to extend the trot and/or canter or and/or to rein-back
 - b. Time allowing, ponies shall be asked to do an individual test and provision must be made for this if at all possible
- 19 Classification: Utility, Working and Farm Pony Classes
- a. In working classes the class shall be judged on performance only. A test is to be set by the judge together with the points system for scoring this test. Riders must be provided with the results of their test within a reasonable time
 - b. In Farm Pony classes, the turnout of the rider is taken into account but the dress should be appropriate to working on a farm but it is NOT a fancy dress class. Hard hats and closed shoes are to be worn. Saddle cloths are to be appropriate, eg., no plastic sacks

H SHOWING RULES: DRIVING

- 1 The vehicle used should be suitable for the purpose, clean and in a good state of repair. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that his/her turnout meets these parameters especially with regard to the breeching
- 2 The bits to be used must comply with the schedule of bits attached
- 3 Dress: Men/Boys
 - a. A suit or sportswear with a jacket and tie, except in the Team of Eight
 - b. A hat should be worn but gloves are optional as or driving apron or driving rug
- 4 Dress: Women/Girls
 - a. Suitable dress in the form of a skirt or slacks but not riding habit
 - b. A hat and gloves should be worn with a driving rug or apron being optional
 - c. Ladies Fine Harness is driven in evening dress
- 5 Dress: Private Drive
 - a. Hats, gloves and aprons/rugs are compulsory

- 6 Dress: Grooms and Handlers
- a. Grooms and handlers, when entering the ring, must at all times look neat and be smartly dressed
- 7 Age of Ponies
- a. No pony under 30 months of age shall be shown in harness classes
 - b. Ponies under 5 years of age may be used in combination with ponies over 5 years of age in the case of senior classes but ponies over 5 years of age may not be used in combination for classes under 5 years of age
 - c. In tandem and double harness classes, both ponies must be the property of one owner. In Teams of Four, at least three ponies must be the property of one owner. In Teams of Eight, five ponies must be the property of one owner
- 8 Gaits – Single Harness
- a. Walk – this must be flat footed and any animated walk such as a short gait or jog not desirable
 - b. Working Trot – this must be a slow trot which will not overly tire a pony keeping it up for long distances. It must show the pony at its best and can be showy
 - c. Extended Trot – this must indicate the characteristic up and out movement associated with the Welsh breeds. The pony's hocks must come well under the body with powerful force to propel it forward
- 9 Gaits – Double, Tandem, Teams of Four
- a. A working trot
- 10 Gaits – Teams of Eight
- a. A working trot
 - b. Exhibitors may be requested to give a show of their own
- 11 Gaits – Ladies Fine Harness
- a. A stylish, showy, controlled park trot
- 12 Courtesy in ring
- a. A competitor may overtake another on the inside or the outside provided that this does not obstruct other competitors
 - b. Any competitor who willfully obstructs another from passing will be penalized
- 13 Procedure
- a. Competitors (other than the Private Drive class as below) enter the ring at a working trot and as required by the judge will also be judged on their walk and extended trot in both directions. No judging takes place during the turnaround
 - b. The competitors are then called in to line up, in the order decided by the judge. The judge then inspects each exhibit.
 - c. In the case of the Private Drive class which enters the ring at a walk, and then performs the trot and extended trot, after being called in,

will then be requested to do an individual show which may include a rein-back

I RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRIVING CLASSES

Action – the beautiful natural flowing and harmonious action as contained in the Breed Description above must be preserved. It is what distinguishes it from other breeds. Extreme, sort choppy strides and Hackney action should be discriminated against.

Colour – a quality pony can be any colour and although in pairs, fours and eights, the overall picture of matching colour is to be aimed at, it is the least important factor.

The temperament of the Welsh Pony is synonymous with the breed and should be apparent in all Welsh classes. They must give the impression of being happy and enjoying themselves, especially when in motion

Single Harness – the overall impression is important

- 1 When in motion, style, set, action and balance must be maintained throughout
- 2 The pony must show good manners
- 3 At the walk it must be able to make an about turn in any direction when asked to do so
- 4 At the trot an even rhythm must be maintained by all four legs. Hind legs should not be trailed, nor canter with its hind legs while trotting in front
- 5 The head must be carried proudly and gaily with no star-gazing or with an over-bent neck. The mouth must be shut and not give the impression that it is unhappy with its bit. The pony should exhibit conscious obedience by being comfortable up on the bit
- 6 The pony should not break into a canter, but if it does, must be brought back to a trot without a problem. Should the pony break often, this is a discrimination
- 7 Ponies cannot be expected to maintain style and balance when driven too fast; hence overdriving must be discriminated against

Tandem – the recommendations for single harness shall apply

- 1 The leader must be under control not to force the wheeler to endeavor to restrain movement
- 2 In the event of a difference in height, the leader should preferably be the smaller pony
- 3 The leader should not be too far from the wheeler and should constitute a unit together with the wheeler and the vehicle; all three should be in as straight a line as possible

Double Harness – in addition to the above, where appropriate,

- 1 If not prominently visible in motion, a difference in height of 4cm when at rest must not be discriminated against

- 2 Matching of ponies for ability, presence, type of action and body carriage should be matched for overall impression

Team of Four – in addition to all the above, where appropriate

- 1 If there is a difference in size, the small pair should be the leaders
- 2 Wheelers should not lean on the shaft nor drag sideways; they should also follow the leaders in a straight line
- 3 The intention is to travel over a distance with a load heavier than could be managed by a pair. However, the workload must be distributed evenly amongst the ponies. Discretion must be allowed for the type of vehicle used, but the criteria must be that there should be no discomfort to the ponies.

Team of Eight

- 1 Differences in size indicates that the smallest pair should be the leaders with the largest pair being the wheelers
- 2 All eight ponies should work together as a team with all four pairs comfortably up on their bits pulling the same weight
- 3 Ideally, the spacing between the four pairs should be equal. Care must be taken that any pair in front does not pull on the necks of the pair behind them. Neck straps of the middle two pairs should be almost vertical, if correctly inspanned. Leaders and wheelers should not wear halters
- 4 The four ponies at either side of the team must follow their respective leaders in a straight line. No member of the team should either drag away from the tow-line or bear against it
- 5 When turning, all four pairs must actively participate, indicating that they are all equally up to their bits

J RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RIDING CLASSES

In process of preparation