

# SPECIAL REGULATIONS 2023 MELBOURNE ROYAL HORSES IN ACTION

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The rules appearing in this Schedule form part of the General Regulations and conditions of entry to an Event at the Melbourne Royal Show (Show). In the event of any inconsistency between the General Regulations and these rules, the General Regulations shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency unless the General Regulations provide otherwise.
2. Notwithstanding General Regulation 2.7, Exhibits in this section may be entered in any Class or Classes for which they are eligible.
3. Exhibitors should note that the General Regulations contain a number of provisions relevant to the exhibition of horses and this Schedule including, without limitation, veterinary inspections, the health of Exhibits, offences, penalties and appeals. As those conditions apply in addition to the foregoing conditions, Exhibitors should make themselves familiar with their terms.

## NOMINATIONS

4. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to ensure that Nominations are complete, true, and accurate at the time of submission.
5. All nominations must be submitted online only.
6. All nominations must include requested documents (ie: horse registration papers and performance cards). Incomplete nominations will not be accepted. If required, birth certificates or proof of age must be provided to Melbourne Royal on request.
7. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to ensure that all performance requirements are met and are relevant to the event entered.
8. Upon receipt of entries, Melbourne Royal reserves the right to charge an administration fee for late withdrawals.
9. All Exhibits must be microchipped at time of entry.

## DEFINITION OF EXHIBITOR

10. The Exhibitor is the person showing the Exhibit and is responsible for the Exhibit entry. The Exhibitor may include the Owner, Lessee or Agent of the Owner or Lessee and may be an individual, syndicate or company.

## OWNERSHIP OF EXHIBIT

11. Exhibits owned or leased under a lease agreement must be written and recorded with the breed society or association in which the exhibit is recorded. If ownership/lessee of an Exhibit changes after the lodgment date of the Nomination Form, Melbourne Royal must be notified in writing of the ownership/lessee change no later than 14 days prior to the date of Exhibition. Melbourne Royal may, if requested in writing by the purchaser/lessee, and at its absolute discretion, amend the Nomination Form by endorsing thereon the name of the purchaser as the owner of that Exhibit.

## TIMETABLE OF JUDGING

12. A timetable of judging of all Classes is available on the Melbourne Royal website (<https://www.melbournerooyal.com.au/horses-in-action/>) and is subject to change at any time.
13. Melbourne Royal accepts no responsibility if judging times conflict with one or more Classes or Events in which an Exhibitor may be entered. Where conflict does occur, it is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to notify a withdrawal from either Class.

## STANDARD OF EXHIBITS

14. Exhibits which in the opinion of Melbourne Royal are not in reasonable show condition or standard shall not compete in the Classes entered for and may at the direction of Melbourne Royal be removed from the Showgrounds without refund of entry fees.

An Exhibitor who detects or suspects any illness amongst any of his/her entries whilst the animals are at the venue must:

- a) Report this fact immediately to the Horse Superintendent.
- b) Ensure that the animal/s is/are contained within its/their accommodation area/s unless advised otherwise by the Horse Superintendent or a member of Melbourne Royal veterinary panel on duty.
- c) Where feasible to do so, contain soiled bedding from the animal/s within its/their accommodation area.  
  
The Exhibitor may consult a private veterinary surgeon in respect to the illness only after the above action has been taken.
- d) Horses proved unsound by the attending Melbourne Royal Vet will be removed from all future competition and classes for the 2023 Melbourne Royal Show until presented fit for competition by Melbourne Royal Vet at the expense of the Exhibitor.

## ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

15. Melbourne Royal is committed to providing a fair and equitable venue for all participants, free from all forms of harassment, bullying and violence. The following behaviors will not be tolerated and may result in the event participant/Exhibitor being removed from the competition venue and/or disqualified from the competition and formal procedures initiated:

- a) violence;
- b) bullying;
- c) harassment;
- d) sexual harassment;
- e) unlawful discrimination;
- f) victimization.

Persons breaching acceptable standards of behavior may be banned from entering future Melbourne Royal Events and/or the venue.

## CLASS ALTERATION

16. Melbourne Royal reserves the right to cancel or merge classes if less than four Exhibits are entered.

## MEASURING

17. Where a height is stipulated (excluding Section 5 Heavy Horses) Exhibits must hold a current Melbourne Royal, National Show Horse Council or Equestrian Australia Measuring Certificate.

If the Exhibit has not been issued with a current Melbourne Royal approved Measuring Certificate prior to the Show, accredited measurers appointed by Melbourne Royal will be in attendance during the Show.

18. Swabbing may take place at Melbourne Royal measuring days.
19. Exhibits that hold a current Measuring Card must present the Card to the Official Measurer for height verification. Registration Papers must be produced for identification. Height verified Exhibits will receive a height stamp on their neck number and will be checked by Stewards in the ring. Where a neck number is not height stamped and a current Measuring Card cannot be produced the Exhibit will be disqualified.
20. Melbourne Royal's duly appointed Measurer will be in attendance at times determined by Melbourne Royal and available from the Measuring Stand.
21. Melbourne Royal may in its discretion and without assigning and reason, refuse to measure any horse if in its opinion the horse is not fit or in proper condition to be measured or if in its opinion any circumstances exist which are likely to lead to the horse being incorrectly measured.
22. When measuring an Exhibit an allowance of 3/8" (1cm) for shoes may be made by the Measurer. Should an Exhibit be measured with its shoes on, the Exhibitor may if he so desires have the horse re-measured without shoes. The measurer may at his discretion request the removal of shoes from any Exhibit

and re-measure the horse without shoes. Exhibits may present with front shoes, no shoes or four shoes however an exhibit shall not be measured if a loss of a shoe has occurred and not been rectified. Grass toe clips are not accepted.

23. Current Measuring Cards must be carried with the Exhibit at all times and must be produced upon request of Stewards, Judges or Chief Steward.
24. A horse will be measured once. Where a request for re-measurement is made by an Exhibitor on their own Exhibit and only one Measurer is available, the measuring will be in the presence of Melbourne Royal's Chief Steward. The results of the re-measurement will be final. An Exhibitor can only request a re-measurement on their own Exhibit.
25. Any amendment to the height appearing on the neck number may only be made by the Measurer. Where matters are not covered by these Rules Melbourne Royal shall consider all relevant facts relating thereto as may be seen to them, in their absolute discretion, to be just and proper.
26. Exhibits presented for measuring shall be bridled and bitted with reins connected to the bit. The exhibit must be presented without rugs and hoods. Exhibits should be presented to the Measurer with numbers and paperwork relevant for the exhibits identification and assessment.
27. An Exhibit over or under the specified measurement shall be transferred to its appropriate class where possible.

#### **NUMBERS**

28. Numbers corresponding to the numbers appearing in the Catalogue must be worn by each Exhibit or competitor when exercising on the Main Arena or designated Exercise Area, Marshaling Area or whilst being judged.
29. Exhibit numbers for horses can be collected from the Horse Superintendent's office. These numbers must be tied around the neck of the horse or waist of handler so that the number is clearly visible to all officials and the general public.

#### **WITHDRAWALS**

30. There will be no refund of Nomination or Acceptance Fees.
31. Withdrawals received prior to 5pm Friday 1 September 2023 may be eligible for a refund of stable, locker and parking fees paid. No refunds will be issued after this date. Refunds will be issued at the discretion of Melbourne Royal upon written notification accompanied by either a veterinary or medical certificate.
32. All withdrawals must be made in writing and submitted to the Melbourne Royal Equestrian Section.

#### **NON-ATTENDANCE**

33. Exhibitors unable to present an Exhibit to accepted Classes for any reason must notify the Horse Superintendent's Office in writing of the withdrawal before 7am on the day each Class is scheduled to take place.

#### **SUBSTITUTE JUDGE**

34. Melbourne Royal reserves the right to substitute a Judge.

#### **PROTESTS**

35. A protest must be made to the Chief Steward in writing and accompanied by a \$100 deposit. Protests must be made within two (2) hours of the latter, of the Show's commencement or the completion of the applicable event. In the event that the protest is not upheld the protest fee will be forfeited.
36. Protests and appeals may only be made by Exhibitors with Exhibits in the class to which the protest relates. Refer to General Regulations No 12

#### **TESTS AND SWABBING**

37. Melbourne Royal will conduct swabbing under the Clean Sport for Horses - FEI Prohibited Substances List. A full list of prohibited substances can be found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/ad-h/prohibited-list>
38. Melbourne Royal may make or cause to be made any test of any Exhibit to determine whether any Drug or Stimulant has been administered to the Exhibit and may take possession of any such Exhibit for any of the aforesaid purposes and detain such Exhibit for such period as is deemed necessary by Melbourne Royal.

39. Drug means any substance capable of affecting the performance or behavior of an Exhibit by its action upon the central or peripheral nervous system, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system, the alimentary digestive system, the muscular-skeletal system, or the urogenital system including without limitation, analgesics, anti-histamines, anti-inflammatory agents, blood coagulants, diuretics, hormones and their synthetic counterparts, corticosteroids, anabolic steroids, local anaesthetics, muscle relaxants and tranquillisers, vitamins administered by injection or any other means.
40. The Exhibit, the Exhibitor, the owner of the Exhibit and any other person who Melbourne Royal deems to be in charge of the Exhibit, will be liable to a penalty referred to in Regulation 8.1 of the General Regulations if the Exhibit is on the Showgrounds and is found to have had any Drug administered to it.
41. It is no defense for a person prosecuted for this offence to plead that they were unaware that a Drug had been administered to the Exhibit. It is the sole responsibility of the Exhibitor to ensure that his / her Exhibit is Drug free whilst on the Showgrounds.
42. A person who administers, causes to be administered or is involved in the administration of a Drug to an Exhibit or who has in the person's possession custody or control any electric or galvanic apparatus or improper contrivance will be liable to a penalty referred to in Regulation 8.1 of the General Regulations.
43. Procedures for the testing of Drugs will involve both "random" and "spot" tests on Exhibits. At the discretion of Melbourne Royal, there will be blood testing of Exhibits prior to competing and/or blood and urine testing at the end of the competition.
44. Melbourne Royal may make or cause to be made, any test of any Exhibit at any time, before, during or after competition.
45. Where Exhibits are tested for Prohibited Substances, the Exhibitor or Agent will be required to sign sample labels and sample identity cards relating to any samples taken from the Exhibits. Where the Exhibitor or Agent refuses to sign the sample labels and/or sample identity cards, the Exhibitor and/or Agent and/or the Exhibit shall be automatically disqualified.
46. Melbourne Royal may also select any Exhibit for examination for desensitized limbs. Any Exhibit found to have a limb or part of a limb desensitized by any means will be deemed to have competed under the influence of a Drug and penalized accordingly.
47. An obligatory "Drug Testing and Enforcement Levy" is payable for each Exhibit.

#### **IDENTIFICATION OF EXHIBITS**

48. Altering markings, staining or colouring hair or skin of any Exhibit is not permitted and will be dealt with in accordance with the applicable regulations. Random checks will take place during the Show.
49. All Exhibits must be microchipped at the time of entry. All Exhibits must present to measure to be identified.

#### **ARTIFICIAL AIDS – SHETLANDS**

50. No Shetland pony entered at the Show may use Artificial Aids (i.e., no head checks, tail sets or weighted shoes).

#### **FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER**

51. The fall of a horse or rider on the Main Arena will result in automatic elimination. Riders are not to remount to exit the arena. Horses falling in the Exercise Arena must present to the Veterinary Officer for clearance before Competition at the Exhibitor's expense.
52. All riders must be examined by Event First Aid following a fall in the venue and first aid paperwork signed by rider or parent/guardian immediately following the examination.

#### **MARSHALLING**

53. Exhibits and/or Exhibitors entered in events shall be present in the designated Marshalling Area 20 minutes prior to the time specified as the starting time for the event in the timetable and shall be ready to move to the judging ring under direction of the Marshall. The Exhibits and/or Exhibitors not presented shall not be permitted to enter the arena or to take part in the event.
54. Exhibits must be moved at a walk on any part of the Showgrounds other than the Main Arena or designated Exercise Areas.

55. All Exhibits must tie up and behave in a safe manner. Exhibits or riders behaving in a manner which could be dangerous to the public will be directed to leave the Showgrounds.

#### **PRIZES**

56. Prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Judge and entry in a Class does not guarantee a place.
57. Prize ribbons will be awarded based on the number of exhibits presented in the Class in accordance with the following scale:
- a) Up to 6 Exhibits 4 ribbons.
  - b) 7 or more Exhibits 6 ribbons.
58. Perpetual Trophies remain the property of Melbourne Royal. Ownership does not pass to the winning Exhibitor.
59. Prize money stated in the schedule does not include GST.
60. Prize money will be made out to the Exhibitor unless stated otherwise.
61. Prize money will be paid by EFT only.
62. All prizes must be collected from the Horse Superintendents office by 4pm Monday 2 October 2023

#### **MULTIPLE EXHIBITS**

63. No rider, handler or Exhibitor may ride or lead more than one Exhibit in any one Class (unless otherwise stated in section conditions).
64. Riders may compete on more than one horse in Championships; however, the subsequent horse/s must be ridden onto the arena by a fully attired rider and may only receive assistance from the Melbourne Royal Mounted Marshals.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

65. No spurs, other than dummy spurs not exceeding 20mm in length, may be used.
66. Whips shall not exceed 77cm in total length. The length should include the flap but exclude the keeper.
67. All riders must wear approved helmets with chin strap fastened at all times. Protective headgear must conform with one of the current approved safety standards.
- o Australian standard AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked.
  - o New Australian Standard ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked.
  - o Current American Standards ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked or Standard SNELL E2001.
  - o Current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked.
  - o Interim European Standard VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemarked.
68. No alterations are to be made to any of the horses or riders equipment once Exhibits have entered the arena unless it is deemed a safety hazard. Alterations will then be allowed under the supervision of a Melbourne Royal Official.
69. All Riders to ride astride. No sidesaddles permitted.

#### **RESTRAINING BITS**

70. All Exhibits in led Classes are to be shown with a suitable restraining bit in the mouth and wear head gear of proper strength and quality with the leading rein attached to the bit.

#### **SUITABILITY OF ATTIRE**

71. Riders, drivers and competitors must be suitably attired. A rider, driver or contestant not suitably attired shall be precluded by Melbourne Royal from competing in an event. Riders, drivers and competitors shall wear at all times in the Main Arena (whether during parades or otherwise), the same or similar attire as is worn in the judging ring in which they or the animals of which they are in charge were Exhibited. All attendants of led horses shall wear white coats or same or similar attire as is worn in the Main Arena during Horse Parades.

#### **COMPETENCE OF COMPETITORS**

72. The Chief Steward may at any time require a person who does not appear to be able to ride or handle any horse to dismount and leave the ring.

73. Any assistance or intervention, including coaching or communication by way of earphones, voice or signals when the horse and rider is in the Competition Arena, may result in elimination of the said Horse and Rider for the rest of the Show.

#### **STABLES**

74. Exhibitors must be prepared to stable Exhibits for the entire period as set out in the Timetable. No arrivals or departures will be accepted outside stated times.
75. Exhibits shall be placed where directed by Melbourne Royal and where a stable is allotted the Exhibit shall be in occupation of such stable in accordance with instructions to be issued by Melbourne Royal.
76. A stabling fee will apply for each Exhibit entered and the Exhibitor will be billed according to allocations.
77. Exhibitors are required to pay a stable bond of \$50 (per exhibit) as security prior to stable being issued, payments to be made with acceptances. The stable bond will be refunded via EFT after Horse Superintendent Inspection. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to clean out all manure from stable/s on departure. Stable/s to be left in a clean and tidy for the next exhibitor. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 stable bond fee retained by Melbourne Royal.
78. An Exhibitor and/or Agent of an Exhibit shall only stable a horse in a stable as directed by Melbourne Royal.
79. Any Exhibitor and/or Agent of an Exhibit who fails to observe any such direction shall be guilty of a breach of Melbourne Royal Regulations and will be dealt with accordingly.
80. Melbourne Royal shall also be entitled to move or direct the removal from the Showgrounds of any Exhibit which is stabled contrary to the direction of Melbourne Royal.
81. No Exhibitor, or Agent of an Exhibit, or other person, shall enter the stable of another Exhibitor without the authority of such Exhibitor or the person in charge of an Exhibit.
82. Any Exhibitor, person in charge of an Exhibit, or other person who enters a stable without the authority above mentioned shall be guilty of a breach of Melbourne Royal.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

83. Limited accommodation lockers are available for Exhibitors at a fee during the Show for the period of occupancy.
84. Exhibitors are required to pay a locker key bond \$25.00 (per Locker) as security prior to lockers being issued. Payment to be made at acceptance.
85. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to return the locker key prior to departure. Lost or non-returned keys incur a \$25 replacement fee.
86. Lockers must be vacated, and all gear removed as soon as possible but in any case, not later than the end of departure times for the applicable group, or such earlier time advised by the Horse Superintendent.

#### **CLEANING**

87. Exhibitors shall, to the satisfaction of Melbourne Royal:
- a) Keep each stable allotted to them and their stock in a clean and proper condition throughout the Show.
  - b) Clean out stables by 7am each day; and
  - c) Not deposit stable bedding or manure in a public area.

Exhibitors found to be contravening the above will be subject to a \$50 penalty. Exhibitors are not permitted to stack feed in the laneways between or around the stables.

88. All Exhibitors must clean out stables prior to departure. Stable to be checked by the Superintendent prior to departure. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 stable cleaning fee.

#### **FIRE AND ELECTRICAL SAFETY REGULATIONS**

89. Persons who breach General Regulations 14.1 to 14.3 (Fire Regulations) may be required by notice from MELBOURNE ROYAL to forthwith remove themselves and their Exhibits from the Showgrounds. The Exhibitor and Exhibits concerned may be prohibited from entry to one or more future Shows. The

determination of Melbourne Royal in this regard shall be final and not be called into question in any manner or in any proceedings whatsoever. An Exhibitor, upon receipt of a notice pursuant to this regulation, shall forthwith remove all his Exhibits and failing such removal by the Exhibitor within the time prescribed by Melbourne Royal, Melbourne Royal may remove or cause to be removed all the animals concerned and all costs and expenses of such removal shall be borne by the Exhibitor and shall be refunded to Melbourne Royal.

90. Smoking is at all times prohibited in the pavilions.
91. All electrical appliances and leads must carry a current safety tag. Any electrical appliance or lead without the appropriate tag will be confiscated by the Superintendent.

#### **VEHICLE PARKING**

92. Any vehicle, including trucks, stock transports, trailers, and horse floats, located on the Showgrounds, or any area leased by Melbourne Royal, shall be at the sole risk of the owner. Melbourne Royal accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage, including loss or damage caused by negligence of Melbourne Royal, its officers, employees, or agents to any vehicle, or the contents of any vehicle, located on Melbourne Royal's property on the any area leased by Melbourne Royal.

#### **ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE OF EXHIBITS**

93. All Exhibitors are to comply with the arrival and departure timings allocated, unless otherwise notified directly by the Melbourne Royal Event Coordinator.
94. Priority may be given to Exhibitors that have considerable distance to travel.

#### **EXERCISING**

95. Exhibits may only be exercised in exercise areas provided. They shall not exercise on any other part of the Showgrounds. Each Exhibit is limited to 30 minutes of lunging at a time, to ensure all competitors have fair access to facilities.

96. All riders must wear approved safety helmets to the current Australian, European or American Standard, (Refer to 66. Equipment for Melbourne Royal approved safety helmets) at all times when exercising, be it on the Main Arena track or in designated exercise areas. The retaining harness must be secured and fastened at all times.
97. The Exercise arena shall be under the direction of the Horse Superintendent, Melbourne Royal Staff and directional signs during open hours. First Aid contractors are working in the horse precinct during the hours of 6am and 9pm daily, Exhibitors exercising horses outside these hours are at their own risk.
98. Exhibits must wear their neck number when exercising on the Main Arena, designated Exercise Area, or Marshaling Area.

#### **ANIMAL WELFARE**

99. Exhibitors acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount. Exhibitors must abide by the **FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse** including:

##### **General Welfare:**

a) Good Horse management Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best Horse management practices. Clean and good quality hay, feed and water must always be available.

b) Training methods Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to methods which are abusive or cause fear.