



MELBOURNE
ROYAL
HORSES IN ACTION



2023 **Mounted Turnout Guidebook**

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Turnout Saddlery and Costume *Guidelines*

Turnout classes are a long-standing tradition of Horses in Action Competition at the Melbourne Royal Show. The traditional judging criteria has been maintained around presentation, equipment, horse and rider to determine the best all round horse and rider combination.

The Turnout classes presented today are almost identical to those seen a century ago, such as the hand-picked riding jacket and woollen breeches, both intrinsic elements in the tradition of turnout classes.

Turnouts are judged on a point system with one judge assigned to one or more criteria. The scale of points is:

Criteria	Points
Conformation and Soundness	50
Manners and Paces	40
Riding Ability	50
General Appearance	20
Saddlery	20
Costume	20
Total	200

The combination with the highest score wins. In the event of equality, the points for Riding Ability and Manners and Paces are added together to determine the winner. If there is still equality, Conformation and Soundness should determine the winner. If still undetermined, General Appearance points will be considered, then Saddlery and finally Costume.

These guidelines have been created by Melbourne Royal to assist judges and competitors in preparing for Mounted Turnouts at the Melbourne Royal Show. They are intended to serve as a guide only and points will be allocated at the discretion of the judge.

All Riders to ride astride. No side saddles permitted (Refer to special regulation 69).

Turnout *events*

The Turnout Events offered at Melbourne Royal are:

Senior Turnouts

The 'Garryowen' Equestrienne Turnout

The Garryowen is the most prestigious turnout event in Australia and is open to lady riders, or Equestriennes, 18 years and over. It was introduced in 1934 in memory of the late Violet Murrell and her beloved Show hack, Garryowen, whom she died trying to save in a stable fire at her Mentone home. The tradition and judging criteria for this memorial event is synonymous with the Melbourne Royal Show.

The 'Esquire' Equestrienne Turnout

Open to Equestriennes over 18 years who own their own horse. (Refer to Special Regulation 11). The Esquire Equestrienne Turnout was created by the late Mrs Nevins to commemorate her beloved and renowned hack – Esquire. The first 'Esquire' Equestrienne Turnout was held in 1948. The horse must be the property of the rider or their immediate family.

Intermediate Turnouts

The 'J. Pemberton' Equestrian Turnout

Open to riders between 12 and 15 years.

The J. Pemberton Equestrian Turnout is named after Jack Pemberton, who was a Mounted Marshall at the Melbourne Royal Show, after succeeding his father, from 1947 until his death in 1990.

The 'K.G Luke' Equestrian Turnout

Offered to riders between 15 and 18 years.

The K.G Luke Equestrian Turnout was introduced in 1977 in memory of Mr Kenneth Luke, who served as an RASV Council Member from 1950 until 1971.

Junior Turnouts

There are five different junior turnouts offered at the Melbourne Royal Show for riders from 4 to 11 years riding Shetlands or ponies under 12.2 hands. Junior turnouts commenced at the Melbourne Royal Show in 1948 and are now held in memory of Mrs Norma Fear.

Senior Turnout

Senior Turnout Costume

Hair and makeup

- Hair to be worn in a neat, tidy style that sits above the collar of the jacket
- A fine hair net can be worn
- No visible hair pins
- Natural make-up
- Jewellery not allowed

Helmet

- An approved black velvet safety helmet to the current Australian, European or American standard
- Sits straight and forward on the head, just above the eyebrows
- Chin strap to be a firm fit under the chin

Shirt

- White cotton and collarless with buttonholes on the front and back of the neck band to attach the stock
- Sleeves to be double cuffed with buttonholes for cufflinks

Stock

- Made of white starched Marcella Swiss cotton, neatly tied (not ready tied)
- Knot to be square with the flaps each side
- Stock flaps may be pinned with small gold safety pins to the shirt or with ties around the body
- A plain gold stock pin should be visible above the vest and placed horizontally. It must pass through the stock and the shirt.

Studs

- Two gold studs must be placed through the stud holes of the shirt to hold the stock in place
- Back stud has a short shank with a blunt end
- Front stud has a longer shank.

Cufflinks

- Plain gold
- Can be engraved with initials but no ornaments
- Any shape or size but should be neat and not too bulky
- Cufflinks to have a small chain to pass through the shirt and not a rigid bar

Gloves

- Fawn or chamois shade
- String cotton or mesh back
- Fastened at the wrist with a small button with a worked loop or a button hole

Waistcoat

- Tattersall Check, consisting of one line black with an additional coloured line of personal choice
- Back of the waistcoat should be of the same fabric
- Hand-picked edging
- Neutral buttons
- Buttons above the waistline fastened
- Top of the vest is just visible over the jacket opening

Riding Jacket

- Black or navy blue pure wool Cavalry Twill
- Lining should be black, dark blue or dark grey
- Single vent
- Lapel edges to be hand-picked
- Three small buttons and functional button holes on each sleeve
- A lapel button hole should be in the right side of the jacket
- Buttons above the waistline to be fastened
- Length of the jacket should be level with the riders base knuckles (where fingers join hands) when the arms are down by the side
- Sleeve length to finish at the wrist when the rider's arm is in the riding position

Senior Turnout

- A plain white handkerchief to be placed in the right pocket
- For the Garryowen, a white everlasting gardenia flower is to be worn in the lapel buttonhole in mark of respect to Violet Murrell. Everlasting gardenias are available to purchase from the horse Superintendents Office at the Melbourne Royal Turnout – Costume

Breeches

- Pure woollen Cavalry Twill or English whipcord in shades of fawn or chamois
- Doe or suede skin knee strapping
- All visible stitching hand-picked
- Contain a side zip and not a front zip
- Contain an opening below the knee (centre front) with six neutral buttons and functional button holes
- Three buttons to be visible above the boot
- Boot garter strap to sit between the second and third button

Top Boots

- Black leather and thoroughly polished
- Sit into the angle of the knee when the knee is bent
- Fits well on both the leg and the foot
- Even height around the boot tops
- Soles to be leather, stitched to the uppers and worn

Boot Garter Straps

- Stitched black leather with a neutral colour backing
- Small buckle and keeper that must be identical to the spur strap buckle
- Buckle done up on the middle hole
- Buckle to sit in line with the buckle of the spur strap

Spurs

- Stainless steel and blunt with a round eye
- Offset with the long side on the outside of the boot
- Worn on the seam of the boot at the ankle and sits straight along seam
- Buckled on the middle hole.

Spur Straps

- Stitched black double leather with a black backing
- Identical to the boot garter strap except it has a black backing
- Buckled on middle hole
- When buckled they sit on top of the foot and slightly off centre towards the outside of the boot
- Buckle must sit in line with the buckle of the boot garter strap

Hacking Cane

- Plain or plaited leather that matches the colour of the saddlery
- Carried one third of the way down from the top in the right hand

Senior Turnout Saddlery

Saddlery should be supple, good quality, well maintained, in immaculate condition, and most important, a correct fit.

Bridle

- Double bridle with correct fitting and placement of the buckles on the horse
- Bridle, saddle, mounts and hacking cane match in colour and complement the colour of the horse
- Stitching is fine and about 10-12 stitches to the inch
- All straps to be buckled in the middle hole
- Browband lies evenly below the ears without touching them and does not interfere with the hang of the head-piece
- Browband is flat leather and a width that suits the horse's profile
- Noseband sits about 1 inch or 2-3cm below the cheekbones
- Noseband fits two adult fingers when done up and should be firm but not too tight
- Noseband and browband must match and be flat leather
- Throat lash is a comfortable fit – allowing room for the horse to flex his/her throat
- Cheek piece buckles to be in line with the eye, three on the near side and two on the off side

Senior Turnout

Bit and Bridoon

- Stainless steel
- Bridoon (snaffle) can be either ring or egg butt
- Curb bit is a moveable Weymouth or fixed at the sides
- Both bits should be a pair – if a sliding cheek bit is used, it must be accompanied by a loose ring bridoon and if a fixed cheek bit is used, it must be accompanied by an egg butt bridoon
- Bridoon lies in the horse's mouth and the curb bit immediately below it

Lip Strap

- Lip strap and chain guard must be of the same leather as the bridle and fit the size of the bits
- Small strap is fitted to the left side of the bit and the longer strap fitted to the right side of the bit and passes through the ring on the bottom centre of the chain
- Buckle to be done up on the near side

Curb Chain

- Sits on a leather chain guard that is the same leather as the lip strap
- Attached to the second link on both sides
- Links to be hooked neatly onto the hook and not left dangling

Reins

- Suitable length to suit the horse
- Both reins to be flat leather with the snaffle rein wider than the curb rein
- Bridoon (wider) rein is attached to the large ring of the bit
- Curb (thinner) rein is attached to the bottom small ring of the bit
- Buckles must face the off side

Saddle

- Fits horse correctly well over the horses wither
- Suits the build and leg length of rider
- Skirt and saddle flaps all finely stitched, as should the three short girth points and girth buckle guards

Girth

- Three fold leather Fitzwilliam girth
- Matches the saddle in colour
- Done up on the middle holes if there is an uneven number of holes, or either of the two middle holes if there are an equal number of holes
- Done up on the same hole on either side, however do not forsake safety for the correct hole length; more points will be deducted for an unsafe saddle than for incorrect hole placement
- Open side of the fold faces towards the hindquarters of the horse
- Surcingle of the Fitzwilliam girth has stitched edging and does up on the middle girth point one hole lower on both sides
- Buckle guard covers buckles

Stirrup Leathers

- Matches the saddle in colour
- Stitched double leather, and when fitted, should be done up on the middle hole
- Iron should be run up and down leathers with ease

Stirrup irons

- Stainless steel without rubber treads
- Two metal bars under the boot must be rough, not smooth
- Offset irons are not acceptable

Number Holder

- Matches the colour of the saddlery and stitched
- Sits neatly on the horse's chest

Numnah

- Lined sheepskin
- Worn under the saddle
- Sits slightly larger than the saddle so that when in place it is slightly visible all around the saddle
- Sits up in the front arch of the saddle, not tight down on the horses wither
- Closely matches the saddle colour

Junior and Intermediate Turnout

Junior and Intermediate Turnout Costume

Hair

- Hair to be worn in a neat, tidy style that sits above the collar of the jacket
- A fine hair net can be worn
- No visible hair pins
- Natural make-up
- Jewellery is not allowed

Helmet

- An approved velvet safety helmet to the current Australian, European or American standard
- Colour to match rider's jacket
- Sits straight and forward on the head, just above the eyebrows
- Chin strap to be a firm fit under the chin

Shirt

- White, cotton, with correctly fitting collar
- Sleeves should have double cuffs and have buttonholes on either side to take cufflinks

Cufflinks

- Plain gold
- Can be engraved with initials but no ornaments
- Any shape or size but should be neat and not too bulky
- Cufflinks to have a small chain to pass through the shirt and not a rigid bar

Tie and Tie Bar

- Plain wool of a nice width and blending tones to the jacket
- It must be tied neatly and sit firmly into the collar of the shirt
- A plain gold bar or tie pin to be positioned between the knot and the V of the waistcoat. It is to pass through to the shirt to hold neatly in position

Waistcoat

- Pure wool in Tattersall Check as worn for senior turnouts or plain wool colour to match breeches.
- Hand stitched edging (hand-picked)
- Same fabric back and front
- Neutral tone buttons
- Top of the vest is just visible over the jacket opening
- The back of the waistcoat to sit over the top of the jodhpur's so the shirt cannot be seen

Riding Jacket

- Pure wool with the collar in the same fabric
- Single vent
- Jacket lining should blend with the colour of the jacket
- Lapel edges to be hand-picked
- A plain white handkerchief to be in the right pocket
- Three small buttons on each sleeve with functional button holes
- Button hole in the right lapel of the jacket
- Three buttons and button holes down the front of the jacket, with the third button hole sitting on the waist line. All buttons are to be done up

Jodhpurs

- Quality stretch fabric in an appropriate turnout colour.
- Self or suede strapping
- Long enough to sit neatly over the top of the riding boot when sitting mounted on the horse
- Bottom of the jodhpurs to have a cuff and a concealed zip on the outside leg
- All visible seams to be hand picked

Junior and Intermediate Turnout

Jodhpur Boots

- Dark brown quality leather with leather soles
- Soles must not be slippery so as children's feet do not slip out of the irons
- Sole must be stitched to the uppers, not glued
- Soles must be the correct foot size and fit firmly up the ankle with firm elastic

Spurs

- Stainless steel and blunt, with a round eye
- Spur faces down
- Fits closely to the boot and lay straight below the elastic at the side of the boot
- Spurs are optional for riders under 12 years and will not be penalised if not worn

Spur Straps

- Brown double leather to match the boots
- Stitched with a small buckle which has a keeper
- Buckle done up on the middle hole
- When buckled they sit on top of the foot and slightly off centre towards the outside of the boot

Hacking Cane

- Plain or plaited leather that matches the colour of the saddlery

Junior and Intermediate Turnout Saddlery

- Bridle, bits and Mounts are the same as Senior Turnouts
- A snaffle bridle is acceptable for riders under 12 years of age
- False three fold leather Fitzwilliam girth allowed for Shetland Turnouts



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Melbourne Royal is a member-based, not-for-profit organisation that has been proudly inspiring excellence in agriculture and food production since 1848, conducting a range of world-class events, awards and competitions each year.

Celebrating a remarkable 175 years in 2023, Melbourne Royal looks forward to celebrating agriculture, cultivating events and strengthening communities for many more generations to come.

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