



RULE BOOK

2019

The Veteran Horse Society
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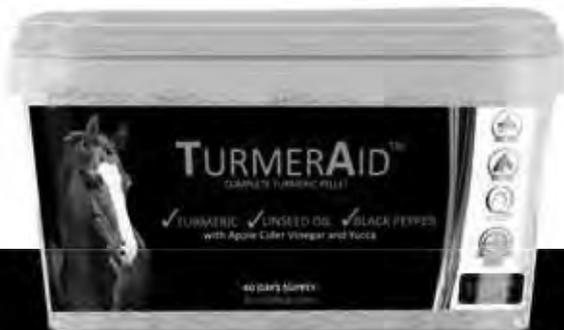
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All competitors, officials and judges are to abide by Veteran Horse Society rules at all times.

All amendments to the 2019 rules are in italics and underlined

The Veteran Horse Society Supreme Finals 2019 **29th September 2019**

The National Veteran Championships 2019 **27th - 29th September 2019**

Arena UK, Allington Lane, Allington
Grantham, Lincs NG32 2EF

The Veteran Horse Scottish Society Supreme Finals 2019 **(incorporating. Pre-Qual Finals)** **31st August - 1st September 2019**

Highfield on Howe
Fife Scotland. KY15 7UW

A. GENERAL RULES

1. Horses and ponies shown in-hand or ridden must be 15 years old or over.
2. All horses and ponies must be in a sound and healthy condition. Any veteran showing signs of distress or lameness will be asked to leave the ring. The judge's decision of lameness of a horse/pony is not protestable.
3. The Society does not accept any liability for any accident, injury, loss, damage or illness to any riders, handlers, spectators, horses, ponies or to any property whatsoever and howsoever caused.
4. All membership, showing and dressage cards will be signed by the VHS Secretary and shall remain the property and copyright of the Veteran Horse Society.
5. Equine passports must always accompany the horse/pony when travelling and competing and must be produced on request.
6. All personal membership will run from 1st January to 31st December.
7. Show & Dressage Cards run from 1st October for the coming year. 1st October - 30th September
8. All membership/registration fees are non-refundable.
9. Please be aware that dope testing may take place at any show affiliated to VHS. The rules and policies of the show will take precedence over VHS rules.
10. Members are advised to have a personal and public liability Insurance cover.
11. Excessive use of whips/showing canes or misuse of any equipment will result in immediate exclusion from the show ring. Membership will be revoked with immediate effect and no refund will be made.
12. Remedial shoeing is permitted and will not be penalised, providing the horse/pony is sound.
13. Spurs are not allowed in any circumstance and competitors entering the ring wearing spurs will be disqualified immediately.
14. *A show may only amend scheduled classes and/or judge(s) with prior approval from VHS Head Office and must provide public notification of the changes by website, social media and/or notices at the event. Unapproved changes will invalidate any qualifications provided at this show.*
(TERMS & CONDITIONS. GDPR)
15. *Entries to VHS classes will be made directly with each show. Should a competitor be successful then the competitor's name and horse's name will be shown on our website.*
16. *Entry to the Supreme Final will be made on-line with a third party that is GDPR compliant, these terms and conditions are available on each website.*
17. *The VHS will hold your information within our system for an indefinite period, as a Membership number is kept for the rider not the horse. Paperwork will only be held for 2 years if not renewed or additional information added.*

B. WELFARE

1. The Judge will ask the competitor to leave the ring should the welfare of the veteran, handler/rider or any other competitor or official be compromised.
2. In extreme weather, the Judge may stop the class at any point. It is advised that in extremely hot conditions, the veteran may be offered natural cover in the ring if this is available and competitors may remove their jackets, provided they have a shirt sleeve of at least elbow length. In heat of 35 degrees or more it is expected that the Judge may cancel the class for the welfare of the veterans. This however, is by decision of the Judge on the day. In severe wet or cold conditions protective rugs may be worn in the line-up. Grooms will be permitted to enter the ring to place the rugs over the horse/pony, and must be appropriately attired.
3. If any horse is deemed to have welfare issues, Judges must consider suspending the class if imminent harm is feared. If the judge is of the opinion that there is a Welfare issue with an exhibit,

be it in relation to size/weight of either equine, rider/handler or any combination or another welfare issue the judge will mark their score sheet accordingly or can, at the judge's discretion, disqualify the competitor. There is no appeal against dismissal from the ring for Welfare reasons

C. SHOWING GUIDELINES.

1. Showing registration will run from 1st October to 30th September of each year
2. All competitors aged 16 years and under will require a person with parental responsibility signature on their membership application/renewal.
3. Lead rein riders (3-6 years of age). No child under 3 years old may compete. Lead rein riders are not to have attained their 7th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
4. Competitors riders/handlers 16 years and under. Handlers **must** be competent enough to handle the veteran without assistance. Riders/handlers not to have attained their 17th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year.
5. Lead rein exhibits must be shown in a snaffle bridle. The lead rein must be attached to the noseband at all times during the class. Riders of lead rein ponies are not permitted to carry whips.
6. All competitors in the ridden section must be capable of walk, trot and canter (with the exception of lead rein combinations who are not required to canter). First ridden combinations do not have to take part in the group canter.
7. The person with parental responsibility of any child on a first ridden pony not wishing to take part in the group canter will be expected to inform the Steward before the class begins.
8. Riders/handlers of stallions must have attained their 16th birthday before the first of January in the current showing year and be of an appropriate size to handle their Stallion
9. Mares in foal or with foals at foot are not permitted to compete.
10. Competitors must be Amateurs - Horses/ponies must be produced and shown by a competitor who has not been involved with professionally producing for the show ring at any time, past or present. VHS expects all competitors to respect this Amateur status in the spirit intended.
The VHS definition of a Professional Showing Producer/Rider/Handler: A person who produces (including preparation and schooling), rides or handles equines for the show ring for financial gain. A person who earns finances from a general equine career does not apply i.e. riding school, livery, instructor etc.
11. Riders/handlers may not exhibit under any judge who has, in the past 3 years, had financial interest in that equine, or any other equine belonging to the rider/handler. This includes producing, riding, schooling, instructing, livery, selling, buying, breeding etc.
12. Riders/handlers may not knowingly exhibit a horse/pony which has been bred by the Judge.
13. Late entries will not be allowed into the ring once the initial order to trot has been given.
14. Competitors may not leave or return to the show ring without the Judge's/Steward's permission. Where a competitor has been granted permission to leave the ring, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure they return before final judging. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
15. Any fall of horse and/or rider/handler and/or the loss of control of a horse/pony will result in disqualification.
16. Should a horse/pony mis-behave during presentation of a final awards, this may result in demotion or disqualification at the judge's discretion.
17. Mobile phones are not permitted in the show ring.
18. Judges must refrain from physical contact with any horse or rider during judging.
19. The judge may disqualify any animal from the class that is not sufficiently under control and is deemed a danger to other exhibitors or officials.
20. The Judge's decision is final. Confrontation with a judge official or another competitor in or outside the ring is strictly forbidden and will result in disciplinary action and may lead to membership being permanently revoked. This also includes all social media forums and chat rooms.

D. SHOWING GUIDELINES (HORSES and PONIES)

1. Horses/ponies that have suffered injuries in the past resulting in scarring or blemishes will not be penalised within the marking system, providing the horse/pony has completely recovered and is showing no signs of discomfort.
2. Discreet enhancement of natural features is permissible but it is recommended that use of makeup and body oils is kept to a minimum. Overuse may be penalised in the marking system. White scars or any blemishes will not be marked down.
3. The Judge will not ride. An individual show is expected, this may or may not be set by the Judge. Stripping of ridden horses/ponies is not expected at an Area Qualifier.
4. Galloping is not allowed in any VHS classes. Any intentional galloping will lead to disqualification.
5. Each competitor will be asked a brief history of the veteran by the Judge.
6. M&M classes - horses must be a registered with a breed society to accept qualification. Breed registration is to be submitted on an entry to the M&M Supreme Final.

E. SHOWING GUIDELINES (TURNOUT and TACK)

Handlers/Grooms

1. Handlers must wear suitable smart attire. In hand UK breed exhibits may turn-out in attire according to breed and type.
2. Jacket and/or waistcoat to be of plain colour or tweed.
3. Jodhpurs or smart trousers.
4. Gloves should be worn.
5. Suitable, smart, safe footwear.
6. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn as these pose a potential risk of injury. Marks will be deducted if worn
7. Long hair to be neatly fastened and contained within a hair net. Juniors may wear long plaits but loose pony tails are not allowed.
8. Suitable hats to be worn. No baseball caps.
9. Golden Ticket - Should a competitor gain a Golden Ticket to the Supreme Final, they may compete in the attire they qualified in. This should be made aware to the National Show Secretary on entry. Full entry rules are available on the National Veteran Championship Schedule
10. Foreign breed turnout is not acceptable in VHS Qualifiers or at the National Veteran Championships with the exception of the Golden Ticket qualifications and foreign breed classes, where foreign breed turnout is explicitly allowed in class wording.

Riders

11. Spurs may not be worn by any riders under any circumstances, including side-saddle exhibits. (see also rule A.14)
12. Jacket to be of plain colour or tweed.
13. Jodhpurs to be plain, beige or canary yellow in colour.
14. Shirt of a discreet colour with tie or stock.
15. Gloves should be worn.
16. Jodhpur boots or long riding boots.
17. No visible jewellery or piercings to be worn as these pose a potential risk of injury. Marks will be deducted if worn.
18. It is **mandatory** for all competitors to wear correctly secured riding hats to the current approved BSI or European standard, with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where SSA rules apply (with the

only exception that no spurs or spur bands are allowed).

19. Golden Ticket - Should a competitor gain a Golden Ticket to the Supreme Final, they may compete in the attire they qualified in. This should be made aware to the National Show Secretary on entry. Full entry rules are available on the National Veteran Championship Schedule
20. Foreign breed turnout is not acceptable in VHS Qualifiers or at the National Veteran Championships with the exception of the Golden Ticket qualifications and foreign breed classes, where foreign breed turnout is explicitly allowed in class wording. These classes will be run following the UK format.
21. Riders/exhibits must wear suitable smart attire. All UK breed exhibits may turn-out in attire according to breed and type.

Grooms

22. To wear a hat, smart attire and suitable footwear (see rules for handlers above).
23. Shorts, jeans and baseball caps are not allowed.
24. Marks **will be deducted (max 10 marks) for poorly turned out grooms and they may be asked to leave the ring.**

Horse/Pony

25. Tack must be in good, clean condition and correctly fitted.
26. Stallions must be bitted. Correctly fitted stallion harnesses are acceptable but not compulsory.
27. Showing canes/whips exceeding 76cm will not be permitted (with the exception of side-saddle exhibits where SSA rules apply).
28. No item of tack can be removed or exchanged whilst a class is in progress without the Judge's permission.
29. Plain, discreet protective boots may only be used in very exceptional circumstances. Written veterinary advice to do so must have been given along with written approval from head office.
30. Boots may also be used for the jumping phase of Working Hunter and Style and Performance classes (National Veteran Championships)
31. Bits – any suitable bit is acceptable. Bit-less bridles are permitted. Children under the age of 12 years are not permitted to use a double bridle or double reins.
32. Should any form of tack not be recognised as commonly used attire, please gain written permission from head office and this should be submitted to the judge/steward on entering the ring. This may only be acceptable if it is for the welfare of the veteran.
33. The age of the horse/pony must be clearly displayed on the offside of the bridle. VHS age badges are supplied with showing cards in the first instance and are also available from head office (for members and non-members).
34. A correctly fitted Newmarket lead rein is permitted.
35. Nose nets required for welfare reasons are acceptable.

F. SHOWING MARKS SYSTEM

VHS does not judge conformation.

1. Both in-hand and ridden classes will be marked as follows:
 - a. Performance and manners 50 marks
 - b. Condition for age, suppleness and turnout 50 marks
2. In the event of a tie, the 'b' mark will take precedence.
(For the National Veteran Championships Supreme Finals please see also rule H (iv) 12)
3. Marks are only awarded for walk, trot and canter. Any other movements will not be marked. (see also rule D.4)

4. Over-weight or under-weight horses will be marked down.(see also rule B3)

G. SHOWING CLASSES

Foundation classes - In-Hand

- CLASS 1F **DIAMOND VETERAN IN-HAND** (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 2F **VETERAN IN-HAND** (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 3F **PRE-VETERAN IN-HAND** (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Foundation classes - Ridden

- CLASS 4F **DIAMOND VETERAN RIDDEN** (25 years and over). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 5F **VETERAN RIDDEN** (20–24 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS 6F **PRE-VETERAN RIDDEN** (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

Foundation classes - Combined age (Area Qualifiers only)

- CLASS AF **COMBINED AGE CLASS IN-HAND** (15 years and over).
To be run as one class but judged as separate age categories: Diamond Veteran (25 years and over), Veteran (20–24 years) and Pre-Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.
- CLASS BF **COMBINED AGE CLASS RIDDEN** (15 years and over).
To be run as one class but judged as separate age categories: Diamond Veteran (25 years and over), Veteran (20–24 years) and Pre-Veteran (15–19 years). Open to horses and ponies of any breed and height.

H. THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – ENGLAND and WALES

At no point may any competitor that lives in Scotland qualify in a VHS Qualifier situated in England or Wales.

H. (i) Area Qualifiers (Round 1)

Area Qualifiers (Round 1) are held throughout the UK, usually at local level shows. Foundation classes. Members and non-members may compete.

Rosettes optional (not supplied for combined classes): 1st to 3rd place (members and non-members)
Regional Final qualification (red cards to non-members): 1st to 4th place (members and non-members)

1. Foundation Classes – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1st to 4th place in each age category (1F - 6F). This includes combined classes (AF and BF) where all competitors will be placed in the final class order but the Judge will award 4 qualifications in each age category.
2. Should any competitor have already qualified, then qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum to 6th place.
3. Qualifying members carrying their valid membership and showing cards will have the Regional Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. This allows entry to any Regional Final(s) (Round 2). It is the responsibility of the competitor to hand the Show Card to the judge on the final line up. No cards may be signed after the competitor has left the ring.
4. **Non-members** placed in a qualifying spot will be given a **red** non-members qualification card. This must be submitted to head office, together with a membership and showing card application and fee.

It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack, allowing entry to Regional Final(s) (round 2).

H (ii) Regional Final (Round 2)

Regional Finals are open to qualified members only. Foundation classes. It is not mandatory for shows to hold championships, although they may choose to do so.

Rosettes: 1st to 6th place (each class)

Supreme Final qualification: 1st to 2nd place (each class)

M&M Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed M&M (each class). Must be a registered breed and hold a valid M&M Breed Society Passport.

1. To compete in a Regional Final you must be a fully paid up member of VHS with valid membership card. You must also have a VHS showing card with a valid Regional Final qualification signature.
2. You will be asked to show both of these cards to the Steward on entering the ring and will **not** be allowed to enter without them.
3. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed.
4. Competitors may attend up to 4 Regional Finals in any one year, providing they are within an acceptable travelling distance. If a competitor is seen to be 'chasing' Regional Finals, this may lead to their membership being revoked.
5. Supreme Final qualification – 1st and 2nd placed competitors in each class will each qualify for the Supreme Final and will have the Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. Entries to the Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the show date**. Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
6. M&M Supreme Final qualification – The highest placed M&M in each class will qualify for the M&M Supreme Final at the National Veteran Championships and will have the M&M Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. It is possible for an M&M to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the M&M Supreme Final. Entries to the M&M Supreme Final must be made within 21 days of the show date. Late entries will not be accepted. If the competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
7. Competitors will be expected to strip their veteran.

H. (iii) Direct Qualifiers (Round 1 and 2 combined)

Direct Qualifiers are a direct route to the Supreme Final. Foundation classes only.

Members and non-members may compete at these.

It is not mandatory for shows to hold championships, although they may choose to do so.

It is the show's decision whether they wish to obtain VHS rosettes.

Rosettes: 1st to 6th place (each class, members and day-members)

Regional Final qualification: 1st -4th place (each class, members and day-members)

Supreme Final qualification: 1st to 2nd place (each class, members and day-members)

M&M Supreme Final qualification: Highest placed M&M (each class, members and day-members)

1. Non-members wishing to take part in a Direct Qualifier must purchase day membership from VHS head office, 2 weeks in advance of the show, at a cost of **£20**. They will then be provided with an age badge and a day membership card which they will need to carry in the ring. Day membership will apply to that show and that day only. Any day-member qualification signatures will be recorded on the day membership card by the Judge. This card must be submitted to head office **within 14 days of the show**, together with a full membership and showing card application and fee. It is advisable to retain a photocopy of any card sent by post. A signed showing card will then be sent out with the membership pack in order for the qualifications to become valid for use.

2. Current Full VHS members are not required to obtain a day membership to enter these classes.
3. Regional Final qualification – Regional Final qualification will be awarded from 1st to 4th place in each class. Qualifying competitors will have the Regional Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. This allows entry to any Regional Final(s) (Round 2). Should any competitor have already qualified, then qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum to 6th place.
4. Supreme Final qualification – 1st and 2nd placed competitors in each class will each qualify for the Supreme Final and will have the Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. Entries to the Supreme Final **must be made within 21 days of the show date** (day-members will need to become full members to do so). Late entries will not be accepted. If a competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.
5. M&M Supreme Final qualification – The highest placed M&M in each class will qualify for the M&M Supreme Final at the National Veteran Championships (day-members will need to become full members to enter). Qualifying competitors will have the M&M Supreme Final section of their showing card signed by the Judge in the ring. It is possible for an M&M to qualify for both the Supreme Final and the M&M Supreme Final. Entries to the M&M Supreme Final must be made within 21 days of the show date. Late entries will not be accepted. If the competitor has already qualified or does not wish to attend, they must refuse the qualification and pass it down the line **on the day**.

H. (iv) The VHS Supreme Final

Arena UK, Grantham on Sunday 29th September 2019

1. All entries for the Supreme Final need to be made within the allotted timescales (see Regional Final and Direct Qualifier rules).
2. Entries must be for the same combination of horse/pony & handler/rider as per the qualifying rounds. No substitution of horse/pony will be allowed under any circumstances. Substitution of handler/rider may be considered in exceptional medical circumstances only. Medical certificates must be submitted for approval by the committee no later than 7 days prior to the class.
3. Anyone found to have taken a second qualification for the Supreme Final with the same horse will have all qualifications revoked.
4. All entries will be required to submit a brief biography of their horse/pony which will be used by the commentator on the day.
5. Supreme Final classes will be held for each age section with 1st and 2nd placed competitors from each class going forward to a championship. There will be a separate In-Hand and Ridden championship.
6. The Champion and Reserve from both championships will go forward to the Overall Supreme Final Championship.
7. The Overall Champion will become the reigning VHS Veteran Horse of the Year and will hold the title for one year.
8. All trophies presented by the Veteran Horse Society, will remain the property of the Society and must be returned clean and undamaged after 11 months (unless stated). A refundable deposit will be required when each trophy is collected.
9. Golden Ticket - Breed Society Qualification. Acceptable turnout is that in which the competitor qualified. VHS Disclaimer must be signed if no hard hat is worn. No spurs are accepted in any circumstances.
10. Golden Ticket qualification may not be awarded to professional riders/handlers (see showing guidelines section C 10/11- definition of a professional). Should a VHS Golden Ticket qualification be won by a professional at the Breed Championship, the placing will stand but the VHS qualification must be passed down to the highest placed amateur within the Championship - no lower than 4th place.
11. Full Rules and Regulations are available within the National Veteran Championships Schedule.

12. In the event of a tie in the Supreme Final classes at the National Veteran Championships, the 'a' mark for Performance and Manners takes precedence.

I. THE VHS SHOWING SERIES – SCOTLAND

1. At no point may any competitor that lives in England or Wales qualify at a Scottish VHS Qualifier.
2. Classes are open to members and non-members, however **ONLY MEMBERS** placed 1st in each age category will go through to the VHS Scottish Pre-Qual Championship in accordance with their age. If competitors placed 1st are not members then qualification only, not the placing, will be given to the next place providing they are members. Qualification will not go lower than 3rd place.
3. Each of the highest placed VHS Member in each age category (no lower than 3rd place) will each qualify for the Supreme final pre judging on 31st August - 1st September 2019 Highfield at Howe KY15 7UW. Therefore the qualifying show may not wish to hold a VHS Championship.
4. Each show will now have 6 qualified horses (1 from each age section).
5. Entry to be made within 21 days of qualifying
6. It is the responsibility of the competitor to hand the Show Card to the judge on the final line up. No cards may be signed after the competitor has left the ring.
7. Anyone found to have taken a second qualification for the Pre-Qual Final with the same horse will have all qualifications revoked.
8. All entries will be required to submit a brief biography prior to the Pre Qual Championship of their horse/pony which will be used by the commentator on the day.
9. All entries for the Scottish Pre Qual Final need to be made within the allotted timescales
10. Entries must be for the same combination for all rounds. No substitution of horse/pony or rider/handler will be allowed. All entries will be checked and verified by HO when entering.
11. In the Supreme Final classes at the Scottish Veteran Championships then the "a" mark takes precedence

I (i) Mountain and Moorland Qualification - Open to registered M&M and hold a valid M&M Breed Society Passport

1. In each age category the highest placed VHS member with a Mountain and Moorland breed will receive a qualification to enter the pre-judging of the VHS Mountain and Moorland section at the Scottish Supreme Pre-Qual Finals. Should any member have already qualified, then the qualification should be passed down the line to a maximum of 4th place.
2. If a show is holding a separate M&M class(s) No VHS qualification is offered. Qualification will only be offered in the Foundation (age sections) classes. A valid Breed Passport must be held.
3. You will receive a Yellow Card instructing you to now enter on-line with 21 days. After that date the qualification is not valid and your entry will not be allowed.

I (ii) Young Rider & Handler Championship(s) qualification

1. A young rider/handler (14 years and under) qualification will be awarded to the young rider/handler of the judge's choice (one per class), entitling them to enter the young rider/handler pre judging championship prior to the Supreme Final. This award is given at the judge's discretion.
2. One qualification per age category.
3. Members must only have their card signed and not accept the orange card as this is for non-members. You must then enter on-line within 21 days or qualification is not valid.
4. Not open to lead rein. These are classes to encourage the care and welfare of veterans that are owned/cared for by competitors under the age of 14 years. Competitors that show dedication and responsibility to the care and welfare of their veteran.

I (iii) VHS Scottish Supreme (Pre-Judging) Final qualification, venue Highfield at Howe KY15 7UW.

Pre judging classes:

Ridden

Diamond Veteran (25 and Over) 1st - 4th qualify
Veteran (20 - 24 years) 1st - 4th qualify
Pre-Veteran (15-19 years) 1st - 4th qualify
Ridden Mountain and Moorland 1st-6th qualify
Young Rider (to be 14 years and under) top 10 to qualify

In-Hand

Diamond (25 and over) 1st - 4th qualify
Veteran (20 - 24 years) 1st - 4th qualify
Pre-Veteran (15 - 19 years) 1st - 4th qualify
In-hand Mountain and Moorland 1st - 6th qualify
Young Handler (to be 14 years and under) top 10 to qualify

I (iv)VHS Scottish Supreme Final. 31st August - 1st September 2019 Highfield at Howe KY15 7UW

There will now be four championships:

In-hand Supreme Final (12 qualified horses / ponies forward)
Ridden Supreme Final (12 qualified horses / ponies forward)
Junior Ridden Supreme Final (10 qualified riders forward)
Mountain and Moorland Supreme Final (combined) (12 qualified horses / ponies forward)
Overall Championship (Champions and reserves from each of the above 4 championships forward)
Young Handler (to be 14 years and under) top 10 to qualify

The Overall Champion will become the reigning VHS Scottish Veteran Horse of the Year and will hold the title for one year.

All trophies presented by the Veteran Horse Society, will remain the property of the Society and must be returned clean and undamaged after 11 months (unless stated). A refundable deposit will be required when each trophy is collected.

J. NATIONAL VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

National Veteran Championships. 27th - 29th September 2019. Arena UK, Gratham, Lincs, hosting the VHS Veteran Horse of the Year 2019.

This is a unique weekend of competition dedicated purely to veteran horses and ponies. It is open both to members and non-members and aims to provide a wide variety of classes which cater for all. We pride ourselves on creating a friendly and encouraging atmosphere for all to compete and have fun with their veterans.

As a Scottish Member you may enter the National Veteran Championships, but you may NOT enter the Area, Regional or Supreme Final qualifying classes in England or Wales, prior to or during the National Veteran Championships. Should you qualify for the Evening Performance Champion of Champions at the National Veteran Championships, you may accept your placing and prizes but Supreme Final qualification will be handed down the line (no lower than 4th) to the next competitor living in England or Wales.

Schedules and entry forms will be published on our website www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk .

The National Championship will be hosting the last Regional Final of the season at the National Veteran Championships on Friday 27th September.

K. NEW JUDGES APPLICATIONS

We welcome and encourage all new Judge applications. From those with an extensive level of showing knowledge and experience, to those who have a passion and interest in veteran horses.

To apply to join the VHS Judges Panel, please send a completed application by email or post to head

office. The minimum age for a full VHS judge is 21 years. Junior Applications are accepted from 18 years, as trainee VHS Panel Judges and may not apply for full Panel Judge status until the year of their 21st Birthday. More information can be found on our website www.veteran-horse-society.co.uk.

L. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites are popular with both members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures. The VHS encourages the use of forums such as these in a positive, inclusive and respectful manner.

Inappropriate and offensive comments of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances - this includes inappropriate or disrespectful remarks about the Society, Judges, members and non-members this will include comments about placings or horses.

Any person associated with the VHS, judge competitor or otherwise, found to be making any such remarks in a VHS owned or associated group will be removed from the group without warning and any member found to be making such remarks in any forum will be subject to the VHS disciplinary procedure which could result in membership or association being revoked.

The VHS is a family orientated organisation and as such, full respect should be shown at all times.

M. DRESSAGE

VETERAN HORSE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Full information available directly from British Dressage

1. The Veteran Horse Dressage Championships are run in partnership with British Dressage (BD). They form part of the British Dressage Veteran Horse and Rider Championships and will be run in accordance with BD rules.
2. The qualifying year runs from 1st December to closing date for entries to the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships (the following year).
3. Veteran Horse Dressage is open to all horses/ponies 15 years and over and will be in split into two age categories: 15-19 years and 20+ years.
4. The levels included in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships are as follows:-

Intro	Elementary	
Prelim	Medium	
Novice	Advanced Medium	PSG
5. Both horse and rider must be eligible for the level they are competing at.
6. In accordance with the new competition structure implemented by BD on 1st December 2018, only those combinations competing in the bronze or silver sections of the relevant level will be eligible for the Veteran Horse Dressage Championships.
7. Combinations are able to qualify in different levels but can only compete within two levels at the final Championships.
8. Riders must be full members of the Veteran Horse Society and have a VHS dressage card in order to be eligible to qualify for the Championships (horses/ponies must be registered with the VHS in order to obtain a VHS dressage card – registration is free of charge). VHS membership / dressage cards can be applied for at any time. Early application is encouraged.
9. Combinations must achieve three scores of 60% or above at the same level to gain qualification to compete in the Veteran Horse Dressage Championship.
10. Qualifying scores can only be achieved at regular BD affiliated competitions, Team Quest or My Quest fixtures.
11. Riders must have full BD membership (Club for Intro level) and horses must have Full BD registrations (Club for Intro level) to be able to compete within the Championships. To gain qualification you are able to be: Intro-Prelim Bronze: Club/Full/Ticket/Trial then Prelim Silver, Novice

and above- Full/Ticket/Trial.

12. More information can be found on the website www.britishdressage.co.uk .
13. For VHS related dressage queries, please email info@veteran-horse-society.co.uk

N. PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The purpose of the Performance Awards Scheme is to encourage and reward the capability and versatility of the veteran horse and pony by offering a wide range of classes and activities in the equestrian world. Cards will be issued up to 31st July of each year.

1. This competition is open to all horses and ponies 15 years old and over.
2. Riders/handlers must be a fully paid up member of the VHS. Horses/ponies must also be registered with the VHS.
3. The Performance Awards competition will run from 1st December to 30th November. Those applying after the start date can only gain points from the date their membership fee has been received.
4. Any horse/pony sold during the competition may transfer any points gained to the new owner providing they are a fully paid up member of the Veteran Horse Society.
5. Entry is open to all VHS members, the fee is to be included with Membership or renewal of Show/Dressage Card and a results card will be included in your membership pack.
6. Extra results cards can be obtained free of charge by sending an A5 SAE to head office.
7. All entrants must register in one of the following groups:
 - Pre-Veteran (15–19 years)
 - Veteran (20–24 ears)
 - Diamond Veteran (25 years and over)
8. Competitors must fill in their cards and keep total of their score.
9. Results cards must be signed by the Judge/Secretary.
10. Completed results cards must be returned to head office no later than the 31st December. No late entries will be accepted.
11. It is advisable to keep a photo copy of your results card before posting. Recorded delivery is recommended for your postage of the results cards. Please send an SAE if you require acknowledgement of receipt. The Veteran Horse Society cannot be held responsible for any results cards lost in the post.
12. Scores will be checked and results will be calculated.
13. The organiser's decision is final and binding at all times.
14. Winners will be notified by post by 1st January and results will be posted on the website.
15. 1st to 4th placed in each age group will be awarded a rosette and the winner of each age group will receive a prize.
16. Score System: Eligible events

Veteran Ridden	Dressage	Show Jumping	E-Showing
Veteran In-Hand	Side Saddle	Working Hunter	E-Dressage
Ridden Showing	Horse/Pony club	Hunter Trials	Driving
In Hand Showing	Combined Training	Eventing	Le Trec/Pleasure Rides

Place	1 st	2nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6th
Points	6 points	5 points	4points	3 points	2 points	1 point

O. COMPLAINTS / DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. The attention of officials, judges and members is drawn to the complaints provisions of the VHS. Whereby the VHS has powers to discipline officers, judges, members and/or any competitor in the event of a failure to observe any rules and regulations made by the VHS or acts in such a manner

that brings the VHS into disrepute.

2. Managers/Directors
VHS Veteran National Championships - VHS Director/Administrator
Membership - Membership Secretary/Director
General Showing Complaint at any VHS organised / managed show – the Show Manager/Secretary
General Showing complaints at any other show must be made in writing within 7 days of the show stating: name of show/date of show/VHS judge/full nature of the complaint together with appropriate fee (see rule O.5)
3. Malicious complaints made solely with the intent to discredit another will not be tolerated. If made and discovered, the complainant will then be subject to disciplinary investigation themselves and may face expulsion – if a member then no refund of membership will be paid.
4. An official complaint should be made in person to the Manager as set out above, and he or she will endeavour to resolve the matter immediately. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Manager then he or she must put the complaint in writing to the VHS Head Office within 7 days.
5. The complainant should make it clear in writing to the VHS that the grievance procedure is being invoked and must ensure that the necessary payment of £30.00 is made at the same time (payable by cheque or card payment to VHS Head Office).
6. On receipt of the complaint the Directors and nominated Senior Representative/s will engage in a meeting and discuss the complaint. The VHS Directors and nominated Senior Representative/s will then deal with and resolve with the complaint within 28 days (or as soon as reasonably possible given the circumstances).
7. The complainant will then be informed of the decision within 28 days of the meeting.
8. If the complaint is upheld, the payment of £30.00 submitted with the complaint will be returned to the complainant.
9. The Directors decision will be final and binding.

P. JUDGES RULES & GUIDELINES

1. All Judges must be members of VHS Judges Panel and are covered by insurance whilst judging. Judges' membership runs annually from the 1st January to 31st December. Renewals are due 1st November of each year, with applicable fee.
2. All Judges will receive an updated Judges pack at the beginning of the year containing the following:
 - VHS Rulebook
 - VHS Judges rules and guidelines
 - VHS Stewards guidelines (to hand to their steward)
 - VHS Score sheet – as an example
3. Judges must acquaint themselves with all aspects of the VHS Rulebook and keep their copy of it with them for reference during the show.
4. It is the Judge's responsibility to ensure that all VHS rules are adhered to.
5. Judges must not request or allow galloping in any instance in the class. Any intentional galloping must result in immediate disqualification.
6. The VHS reserves the right to remove from the panel any judge found to be guilty of misconduct. This includes making inappropriate comments on social media sites.
7. Judges are required to wear suitable smart attire whilst carrying out their VHS responsibilities.
8. Judges are requested to arrive at the show at least 30 minutes prior to the class starting, to acquaint themselves with the steward and ensure the steward is familiar with VHS rules and qualification cards. This has also been included in the Stewards guidelines which will be sent to all shows.
9. Judges must not knowingly judge any Veteran that has been bred by them or that they have had a financial interest in during the past 3 years – refer to Rulebook showing guidelines, rule 13.
10. Judges may not judge more than three Direct Qualifiers / Regional Finals in any one year.
11. Judges invited to judge the Supreme Finals may only judge at Area level for that year.

WELFARE

1. It is paramount that the Veteran's welfare is given full consideration at all times.

MARKING SYSTEM

1. Judges are required to ask a brief history of each veteran and take this into account when marking.
2. Both ridden and in-hand classes will be marked as follows:
 - a. Performance & manners 50 marks
 - b. Condition for age, suppleness & turnout 50 marks
3. In the event of a tie, the 'b' mark will take precedence.
4. At the NYC in the Supreme Finals 'a' mark will take precedence.
5. Any marks noted incorrectly/inadvertently by the steward may be adjusted and must be signed/initialled by the judge.
6. No half marks allowed.
7. Marks are only awarded for walk, trot and canter. Any other movements should not be marked.
8. Over-weight or under-weight horses should be marked down.
9. Score sheets must be completed clearly, dated and signed by the Judge for all classes at all shows. These must then handed back to the Show Secretary for return to VHS head office.
10. Result sheets must also be completed to include competitor name and horse/pony name (members and non-members).
11. Score sheets and results sheets must be returned to VHS head office within 2 weeks of the show. Please remind the Show Secretary of this requirement before you leave.

AREA QUALIFIERS (Round 1)

1. Must be judged by VHS Panel Judge – 1 B Panel, A Panel or A* Panel Judge(s).
2. Members and non-members may enter and standard VHS judging and rules will apply to all.
3. Show packs will be sent to the show which will include:
 - Red qualification cards

- Score sheets
 - results sheets
 - Rosette order form (not compulsory at Area level)
 - Rule Book
 - Stewards and Judges guide lines
4. Qualification cards are to be awarded 1st – 4th place:
 - Members to have their showing card signed by the judge in the ring.
 - Non-members to receive **red** card.
 5. Judges should ask if competitors have already qualified. If so, the qualification card can be passed down the line to a maximum to 6th place.
 6. Combined age classes: competitors are to be placed in final (combined) class order. VHS rosettes are not supplied but qualification cards are to be awarded, as above, to each age category within this.

REGIONAL FINALS (Round 2)

1. Must be judged by a VHS Panel Judge(s) – A Panel or A* Panel Judges.
2. Only members with a signed Show Registration Card may compete in a Regional Final.
3. Show packs will be sent to the show which will include:
 - Rule Book
 - Score sheets
 - results sheets
 - Rosette order form (VHS Rosettes are Required at a Regional Final)
 - 6 x Yellow M&M Cards
4. Judges must ensure that the steward checks each combination has all of the following before they are allowed to enter the ring:
 - Valid membership card
 - Valid show registration card - signed in the correct box.
 -
5. Ridden classes should be stripped, with the exception of Lead rein exhibits.
6. Grooms, if not dressed appropriately, should be asked to leave the ring and turnout marks deducted.
7. Rosettes are to be awarded 1st – 6th place.
8. 1st and 2nd placed competitors in each class are to have their Show Registration Card signed in the Supreme Final section.
9. Judges should ask if competitors have already qualified for the Supreme Final. If so, the qualification can be passed down the line no lower than 4th place .
10. The highest placed M&M in each class is to receive a yellow Supreme Final qualification card.
11. Supreme Finalists must enter within 21 days of qualification to confirm place at the Supreme Final. Details are on the qualification card. Judges are to make competitors aware of this.

DIRECT QUALIFIERS (Round 1 & 2 combined)

1. Must be judged by a VHS Panel Judge(s) – A Panel or A* Panel Judges.
2. Members and non-members purchasing day membership may enter and standard VHS judging and rules will apply to all.
3. Show packs will be sent to the show which will include:
 - As Regional Final (above)
4. Judges must ensure that the steward checks each combination has all of the following before they are allowed to enter the ring:
 - Valid membership card (full membership of day membership for that show)
 - Valid show registration card
5. [Rules 5 – 12 as per Regional Finals above].

SCOTTISH QUALIFIERS

Marking System will remain as above.

QUALIFIERS - All qualifiers are directly for the

Scottish Pre Qual Qualifier.

1. Must be judged by VHS Panel Judge – 1 B Panel, A Panel or A* Panel Judge(s).
2. Members and non-members may enter and standard VHS judging and rules will apply to all.
3. Qualification is given to the highest placed VHS Member in each age category no lower than 3rd place:
 - a. Members to have their showing card signed by the judge in the ring.
 - b. Non-members will keep their placing but not receive any qualification
4. Judges should ask if competitors have already qualified. If so, the qualification can be passed down the line no lower than 3rd place
5. Combined age classes: competitors are to be placed in final (combined) class order. VHS rosettes are not compulsory.
6. **NEW FOR 2019 Young Rider & Handler Championship qualification.** A Young Rider and/or Handler qualification will be awarded to the young rider/handler of the Judge's choice, entitling them to enter the Young Rider/Handler Championship Prior to the Supreme Final This award is given at the Judge's discretion. Non Members to receive an orange card. Members to have their Show Registration Card signed.
7. Show packs will be sent to the show which will include:
 - a. Score sheets
 - b. results sheets
 - c. Rosette order form (not compulsory at Area level)
 - d. Rule Book
 - e. Stewards and Judges guide lines
 - f. 6 Yellow M&M Cards
 - g. 6 orange Young competitor Awards

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