

MEMO TO JUDGES JUDGING MINIATURE HORSES AT SAMHBS SHOWS.

TURNOUT.

The rules of the SAMHBS do not dictate turnout of horses or the style or dress codes. Whether horses are turned out in English or Western Style is of no consequence and should not lead to one horse being preferred over another by a judge.

Clipping is optional. So is platting. It is left to the discretion of the exhibitor as to what style of turnout is opted for and to assess how to present each individual horse to its best advantage.

It is however relevant that turnout should not limit the judges ability to assess a horses conformation, movement or presence.

DRESS CODE.

Other than being neatly dressed in long pants, a collared shirt, sturdy soled shoes and a hat no dress codes are dictated to exhibitors. Other than where safety aspects are considered judges must not be swayed by the exhibitors chosen dress code or style.

COLOUR.

All coat and eye colours are permitted in SA Miniature Horses. The colour of a horses coat or eyes is not to sway a judge to place it over any other colour or pattern. In terms of the SA Miniature Breed Standard all colours are considered as equal and judges are to guard against personal colour preferences influencing the assessment of horses. Broken coats, solid coats and Appaloosa coat colours are only to be assessed in the relevant colour classes and carry no weight or preference in any other classes.

MOVEMENT.

Movement is important in assessing a horse and a horse with good and correct movement is preferred over one that moves badly. While movement and type are related judges are encouraged to judge for correctness of movement rather than type of movement.

TYPE.

There is no clear description other than the breed standard with regard to type. The breed is however clearly defined as a horse rather than a pony type. Judges are encouraged to take note of the Breed objective and give preference to equines resembling horse breeds rather than to those that resemble pony breeds.

SIZE.

The rules state that only where two horses are found to be equal the smaller of the two is to be placed above the larger. Size however is not a criterion and as long as the horse complies with the size limits dictated by the Breed standard size is irrelevant.

CONFORMATION.

Good conformation is regarded as the primary consideration when judging SA Miniature horses. The order of priority is as follows and judges should endeavour to consider these in the order as stated in the rules.

- 1. Conformation**
- 2. Movement**
- 3. Presence**
- 4. Type**

The Breed is progressing toward a more refined breed but not at the expense of the criteria stated above.

TEMPERAMENT AND MANNERS.

The Show rules require a horse to be alert, attentive and controlled. It is important however that where horses display poor temperament and bad manners these be regarded as negative attributes. It is important that the level of control shown is such that a judge can adequately assess and judge it.

DISCIPLINE AND BREED BACKGROUND

It is accepted that judges will originate from various equine disciplines and Breed backgrounds. It is required that judges not be influenced by their background and preference for a particular Equine Breed or Sporting discipline.

DRIVING CLASSES

Driving Miniatures comes with challenges pertaining to size and weight and placing cruel and unreasonable demands on the horse. Our rules leave a great deal to the discretion of the judge and we request that judges be attentive to matters pertaining to horses that are too small or, pulling too much weight. Should a judge notice any poor practice or indiscretion they are fully permitted to point it out to the exhibitor or show manager or if it is a more serious matter ask the exhibitor to leave the arena.

JUMPING CLASSES

Jumping Miniatures in hand is a test of both the horse and the handler. We take care that Miniature Jumping classes should not become a test of the athleticism of the handler placing certain combinations at a disadvantage. Judges also need to be cognisant that we have few experienced combinations and that jumping is still developing. Caution needs to be exercised when jumping that horses are not over faced or asked to do too much. Here once again the judge's discretion is depended on.