

**BRITISH CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY RULES**  
**Relating to Judges and Showing**

**Registered Charity No. 262765**

**Company No. 1006107**



**Executive Secretary: Mrs S Parkington**  
**Registered Office: 1 Lansdowne Cottages, Ilsley Road, Compton,**  
**Newbury, Berks RG20 7PQ Tel: 0845 604 9690 Email: [secretary@britishconnemaras.co.uk](mailto:secretary@britishconnemaras.co.uk)**

## **Index**

Rules for Showing

Rules for In Hand Breed and Ridden Shows

Trimming Rules

Rules for Judges

Judges Enquiry Committee

Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee

Social Media and Internet Policy

## Rules for Showing

1. No Connemara pony may be shown after the age of six months unless it is registered in a recognised Connemara Pony Stud Book.
2. No entire male may be shown or take part in any competition restricted to Connemara or Registered Mountain and Moorland Ponies after the 1<sup>st</sup> June in the year in which he attains the age of three years unless he has been registered as a Stallion in the BCPS Stud Book or the Stud Book of a recognised Connemara Pony Society. Stallions registered after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 must be registered in Class 1 or Class 2.
3. No female or gelding may be shown or take part in any competition restricted to Connemara or Registered Mountain and Moorland Ponies after 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year in which it attains the age of four years unless it has been registered as an adult pony in the BCPS Stud Book or the Stud Book of a recognised Connemara Pony Society. Mares and Geldings registered after the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 must be registered in Class 1 or Class 2, with the exception of Geldings registered as adults in the BCPS Stud Book in 2007 and 2008.
4. Unless entered in a class specifically for Overheight Connemaras, no Pure-Bred Connemara Pony exceeding 148cms in height may be shown or take part in any competition restricted to Connemara or Registered Mountain and Moorland Ponies within the jurisdiction of the BCPS. Where it is reported to the BCPS that this may have occurred, the Society may require the animal to be measured or re-measured in accordance with the rules of the Joint Measurement Board Ltd. The penalty for contravening the above rule may be cancellation of the registration of the animal concerned.
5. Where shows are affiliated to the NPS/PUK their rules for showing apply in their qualifying classes.
6. No entry fees are refundable.
7. Mares with a living foal born in the current season are not eligible to compete in ridden classes.
8. Brood Mares must be four years old or over.
9. Foals must be at least four weeks old on the day of the show and must accompany the mare into the ring.
10. No ridden pony may be shown on a lead rein.
11. All ponies in Novice Classes must be shown in a suitable snaffle bridle.
12. Whips or canes must not exceed 30'' (75cm) except in dressage classes. Excessive use of the whip will be penalised and may result in disqualification.
13. A correctly secured current British Standard Skull Cap/Riding Hat must be worn (including Side Saddle). 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. He/she may dismount without penalty to recover the hat or have it passed up from the ground, or may stop without penalty to fasten the chinstrap.

14. A fall of pony or rider in any class will result in disqualification. The rider must not remount in the ring.
15. Spurs are only allowed in dressage classes.
16. Ponies will not be penalised for wearing mesh nets provided they are not head shaking.
17. All equines must be kept within the designated areas and handlers must obey the instructions of the stewards to conform to the current Health and Safety rules. Stallions/Colts may not be lead or ridden by a junior who has not attained his/her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day of the show.
18. All equines must be kept under control at all times. Any equine deemed not to be under control may be required to leave the Ring and/or Showground by any authorised person.
19. The Judge's decision is final.
20. Any pony arriving late for a class may only compete in that class with the Judge's permission.
21. Exhibitors may not remove their ponies from the Ring during judging, without the Judge's permission.
22. In WHP classes, no change of rider/saddlery is allowed between phases or during a phase. Black or brown protective boots may be used for forelegs for the jumping phase only. Bandages or protective pads on ponies are not allowed.
23. No change of rider/handler will be allowed throughout the class without the judge's permission.
24. No Stallion or Colt may tease and/or serve a mare on the Showground or on the show premises.
25. No pure bred pony 148 cm and under may be plaited.
26. An exhibitor may not knowingly exhibit a pony bred, sold, leased, produced, broken, ridden or trained or has had or has a financial interest or gain by the Judge, and/or his/her immediate family or his/her employer/employee or by anyone with whom he/she resides. Stud fees are exempt from this clause. Exhibitors are required to withdraw from a class if their participation in it is in conflict with any of the above.
27. A rider may not ride in a class judged by someone for whom he/she has ridden in a competition since 1<sup>st</sup> October the previous year.
28. A rider may not show an equine in a class judged by his/her immediate family.
29. An exhibitor may not show under a judge for whom he/she has produced an equine since 1<sup>st</sup> October the previous year.
30. No invited judge is permitted to exhibit a pony at the same show.
31. The Show Committee reserves the right to alter the programme as and when necessary. The decision of the Show Committee in all matters is final.
32. Anyone wishing to lodge a protest shall do so in writing to the Show Secretary's Office and at the same time deposit £50.00. All protests shall be delivered within one hour of the incident.
33. No earrings, piercings or visible jewellery should be worn.

34. No Member of the British Connemara Pony Society shall conduct themselves in a manner or be guilty of a behaviour which derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the Society and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) no Member shall behave in an offensive abusive or unpleasant manner to any person in the Ring/Collecting ring during any class.
35. Members are responsible for the actions of any non-members employed by them or assisting or representing them or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or misconduct of such non-member which would be a breach of the rules shall constitute a breach of the Rules by the Member responsible for them.
36. Failure to observe any of the Rules may result in suspension of the Member concerned and disciplinary proceedings by the BCPS against the person breaking the Rules in accordance with the BCPS Disciplinary Procedure may be implemented.

### **Trimming Rules**

Connemara ponies should be shown in as natural a state as possible and the following rules should be observed.

1. MANES - ponies should be shown unplaited. However, very thick manes may be discreetly thinned but should look as natural as possible.
2. TAILS - should look natural and should not be pulled but may be squared off at the bottom.
3. HEAD - Ears may be trimmed flat (no trimming inside of the ears). Light trimming of long hairs in the jawline is permitted. Whiskers should not be trimmed.
4. LEGS - No trimming of feather on legs or trimming into heels.
5. No false hair, artificial colouring or make-up should be used.
6. Ridden ponies ONLY may be clipped in the interest of welfare. Legs should not be clipped. Under no circumstances should foals be clipped.
7. The Society does not object to ponies being freeze branded. This should not be detrimental to animals in the show ring and should be encouraged.

## **Rules for Judges**

1. All judges must be Members of the Society and must make themselves fully conversant with the Society's Rules and recommendations.
2. Judges are appointed annually. The Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion to not appoint or re-appoint to the Judges' Panel.
3. Judges who fail in the observance of the BCPS Rules or whose conduct in any respect shall be, in the opinion of the BCPS Council, derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the BCPS, may be suspended or removed from the Panel of Judges at any time, by the BCPS Council.
4. The Council will review the position of any Judge who receives a serious judging complaint and may remove the Judge from the Panel of Judges.

## **Judges Enquiry Committee**

5. The Judges' Enquiry Committee shall consist of five members of the BCPS to be appointed by the Council, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Council. The Quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Judges' Enquiry Committee shall be three, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Council. In the event of there being no member of the Council available for the transaction of business of the Judges' Enquiry Committee (whether because of a conflict of interest or any other reason), then the Judges' Enquiry Committee shall have power to co-opt a member of the Council onto the Judges' Enquiry Committee to establish the necessary quorum.
6. Upon receipt of the report of any complaint the Judges' Enquiry Committee shall carry out further investigation of the complaint if it considers this to be necessary.
7. The Judges' Enquiry Committee shall proceed by way of written submissions only and no party shall be entitled to attend in person or be represented. The proceedings shall be conducted anonymously in that no member of the Judges' Enquiry Committee shall be aware of the identity of any complainant or that of the judge in respect of whom the complaint has been made or that of the show at which the judge was judging and all papers submitted to the Judges' Enquiry Committee shall be edited accordingly.
8. The Judges' Enquiry Committee may in any case in which in its opinion any person has committed or been party to or privy to any breach of any Byelaw of the BCPS or has been guilty of conduct which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the BCPS –
  - a. Admonish such person and caution him/her as to his/her future conduct;
  - b. Instruct Council not to re-elect the judge on to the Judges Panel; and/or
  - c. Suspend such a person as a judge for such period as it shall determine
9. The Secretary or other officer designated by the Council shall within fourteen days of the decision of the Judges' Enquiry Committee notify the parties to the complaint in writing of the findings of the Judges' Enquiry Committee and of any penalties imposed. Any person upon whom a penalty is imposed by the Judges' Enquiry Committee may by notice in writing given to the Secretary or other officer designated by the Council within fourteen days of the decision of the Judges' Enquiry Committee require the complaint to be submitted to the Judges' Enquiry Appeal Committee for consideration PROVIDED that as a condition precedent to the complaint being so submitted such a person shall deposit with the Secretary a sum equal to 10 times the then current subscription for an Adult Member. If after investigation the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall decide in their absolute discretion that the matter is trivial or frivolous the deposit shall be forfeited to the BCPS.

### **Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee**

10. In any case in which a matter is referred to the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee pursuant to Bylaw 9 the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall fix a date for a meeting to consider the complaint.
11. The Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall consist of three members of the BCPS to be appointed by the Council at least one of whom shall be a member of Council. The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall be three at least one of whom shall be a member of the Council. No member of the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee who adjudicated on the decision being referred to the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall serve on the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee in relation to that matter. In the event of there being insufficient persons to serve on the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee for whatever reason then the Council shall have power to co-opt any Member of the BCPS to serve on the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee to establish the necessary quorum.
12. The Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall proceed by way of written submissions only and no party shall be entitled to attend in person or be represented. The proceedings shall be conducted anonymously in that no member of the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall be aware of the identity of any complainant or that of the judge in respect of whom the complaint has been made or that of the Show at which the judge was judging and all papers submitted to the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall be edited accordingly.
13. The Secretary or other officer designated by the Council shall give to the person making the complaint and to the judge against whom the complaint is made at least 14 days' notice in writing of the date on which the complaint will be considered by the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee. Such notice shall be exclusive of the days upon and for which it is given and shall contain a statement of the complaint to be dealt with.
14. In any case in which in the opinion of the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee any person has committed or been party to or privy to any Breach of any Bylaw of the BCPS or has been guilty of conduct which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the BCPS it may;-
  - a) Admonish such person and caution him/her as to his/her future conduct;
  - b) Instruct Council not to re-elect the judge onto the Judges' Panel;
  - c) Suspend such person as a judge for such period as it shall determine and/or;
  - d) Remove such person as a judge from the Judge's Panel with immediate effect.
15. The Secretary or other officer designated by the Council shall within seven days of the decision of the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee notify the parties to the complaint in writing of the findings and of any penalties imposed.
16. The findings of and penalties imposed by the Judges' Enquiry Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties in every case.

## Social Media and Internet Policy

- The BCPS acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Linked-in and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which Social Media plays in the day-to-day lives of Members.
- This policy note is to remind Members that the Rules of the BCPS apply to all Members when using Social Media and the Internet. Failure to adhere to this policy note could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a Member.

### Using Social Media

- You should be aware that the BCPS may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the BCPS and its members.
- BCPS images are the subject of copyright and should not be used in Social Media save as provided in the BCPS website user terms and conditions.
- You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to Social Media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the BCPS.
- You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the BCPS, its Members or former Members or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the BCPS.
- You must not post or transmit any material relating to the BCPS, members, former members, their horses/ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the BCPS:
  - a) that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience or:
  - b) which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the BCPS Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in the UK or any other country in the world.
- Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the BCPS Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.

### Disclosure Under Law or Regulation

You should be aware that the BCPS will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the BCPS to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this policy. If the BCPS are requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, the BCPS is entitled to do so.