

## Shire Horse Society Australia Ridden Shire Judging Guidelines

**Aim:** to ensure that both judges and riders have the same understanding of what is expected in Shire Horse ridden classes.

**This is a breed class. An assessment of Shire Horse breed features is to be made and scored by the judge, as well as the workout, behaviour and overall impression**

### Judging Criteria

Class to be judged on a points system. Points to be allocated as follows:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Workout  | 50 points         |
| Type/conformation of horse and its movement      | 30 points         |
| Manners and behaviour of horse                   | 10 points         |
| Overall impression/appearance of horse and rider | 10 points         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>100 points</b> |

**Winner is the entry with the highest point score out of the 100 available points.**

### Supplementary Notes for Judges and Competitors

Only horses registered with the Shire Horse Society of Australia or other recognised Shire Horse organisation are eligible for entry in these classes. Horses registered in the Shire Sporthorse registry are not eligible to compete.

Approved safety helmets should be worn by competitors at all times.

Spurs and whips are optional. Choice of bits is at the discretion of the rider.

### Workout:

The workout should include a walk, trot and canter (on the correct lead, ie leading with the inside foreleg), ideally if time permits on both reins (both directions), plus a back up. The horse should be forward moving, travel on the bit and have a controlled gait. Transitions through the gaits should be smooth and the horse should finish calmly and without pulling. A small jump, of approximately 30cm is optional.

### Type/conformation of the horse and its movement:

The Shire is a weight carrying animal, which should carry the rider with ease and safety. It should be forward moving with an active gait, strong and elevated. The horse should display strength, quality and movement which will appeal to the judge and spectator. The horse should be sound, true to Shire type and conformationally correct.

Splints should not be discriminated against as long as they do not appear to cause unsoundness. Scars should not be discriminated against provided they do not impinge on the movement of the animal and are not too disfiguring.

### Manners and behaviour of horse

The horse should be well behaved at all times during the class, both during the workout and during the lineup, and should perform calmly and obediently while in the ring.

Disobediences such as bucking, rearing, disobeying direction or refusing to walk or stand in the workout or line up should be penalised.

### Overall appearance

To be judged on the overall appearance of the rider and horse. Competitors should be turned out neatly and to a high standard in appropriate riding attire. The horse should also be turned out to a high standard, in show condition and with decorations appropriate to a Shire. The horse and rider combination should appeal to the eye and look to be working in harmony at all times.