



Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia

General Guidelines on Harness Judging

Horses

Horse or horses in all harness classes must be working well on the day, moving forward, on the bit, be collected, and exhibit action and presence. Ample opportunity should be given to show how well the horse or horses are working, on both reins. Judges should ask entries to walk, trot and stand. Manners are to be good. Conformation for harness horses does not necessarily need to be as perfect as for in hand classes because the Judge is also assessing other attributes. Horse presentation should be of a high standard.

Harness

Should be fitted correctly and be a matching set, neatly and cleanly presented. Traditional high quality show harness should be rewarded in the appropriate classes and points score.

Heavy Horse Driving Classes

Major importance should be placed on the standard of driving and the overall smartness of the driver and any attendants. Any suitable vehicle can be used in these classes unless otherwise specified in the Schedule.

General Appraisal in Turnout Classes

Emphasis is to be placed on the overall appearance of the turnout as a whole. Pairs or teams should be balanced and work as a team. The Judge should make a close inspection of the horse, harness and wagon, but have due regard for the overall appearance of the turnout in deciding the final placings. Judges should not climb or stand on any part of the turnout except for the steps.

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Points System for Turnout Classes

If there is a points system for the class written in the programme, the Judge must pay heed to it and allocate time and effort accordingly. As a general guideline, based on the Sydney Royal Points System, the scale of judging points for judging a Trade Turnout Class is:

- 50 points for the horse
- 30 points for the vehicle
- 10 points for harness
- 10 points for general appearance.

Obstacle Classes: Long Reining, Slide, Ridden

The same general principles apply to these classes although action and presence are not as important. The judge will set up some obstacles, using what is available, which will test the horse and driver/rider in their driving or riding skills, and ability to pass through, under, or over obstacles. A Points System is usually applied.

Sydney Royal Points System for Obstacle Classes is:

- 70 points for the obstacle workout.
- 20 points for the manner and behaviour of the horse
- 10 points for the overall Impression/appearance of horse and driver/rider.