

# Ridden Heavy Horse Class Judging Guidelines

**Endorsed by** Shire Horse Society Australia  
Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society – NSW Branch  
Australian Tradesman Delivery Horse Driving Association

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

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

Class to be judged on a points system.

## Allocation of Points:

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>

## Supplementary Notes for Judges and Competitors

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 heavy horse 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, of heavy draught horse type (ie Clydesdale, Shire, Percheron etc) and conformationally correct for its breed. Lighter breeds, such as half-draught, Friesian or Gypsy Cobs are not the correct type for a Ridden Heavy Horse class.

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 its breed. The horse and rider combination should appeal to the eye and look to be working in harmony at all times.