



### Specific Rules for the Side Saddle Section

20. Any rule not stipulated defaults to the RAS rulings.
21. Height certificates are not required for the Side Saddle Section, as exhibits are not generally separated by height. If class separations are used, these will be Open/Novice/Junior.
22. Junior Riders in the Side Saddle Section must be aged 17 or under, as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of competition. The age of all riders is taken *as at* the 1st January in the year of competition.
23. In the Side Saddle Section, "Novice" status applies to the *combination* of horse and rider. Once the combination has achieved 6 wins in Qualifying Side Saddle classes in the 12 months prior to Horse of the Year, it will not be eligible to compete thereafter in "Novice" status, but must move to the "Open" Section.  
However, if the horse is passed to another rider, or the rider begins to compete another horse partway through the year, the new combination may revert to "Novice" until a further 6 wins have been achieved.
24. Exhibitors presenting for the Side Saddle Section Title Class **MUST** have qualified correctly in the 12 months prior to Horse of the Year: in that period, the entered combination of horse and rider must have won
  - *one* Champion or
  - *one* Reserve Champion, or
  - *two* Firsts from an Open Side Saddle class at one of the qualifying shows.Champion or Reserve Champions, or Firsts, gained by qualifying through a Novice or a Junior Side Saddle Class win, are *not* acceptable for entry to the Title Class.
- 25. Competitors must have entered in a Ridden Side Saddle class at Horse of the Year before entering the Title Class for that year.**  
**Turnout and Concours d'Elegance do not count on their own.**
26. No substitutions will be allowed for the Title Class Unity.
27. Last minute substitution of the horse is permitted for the minor (non-title) classes at HOY, *providing*
  - The original entry has qualified correctly
  - A veterinary certificate is available, justifying the inability of the qualified horse to compete
  - The horse/pony being substituted takes no further part in the show
  - The horse substituting is vouched for as being suitable for the competition. The onus is on the rider to choose a suitable horse to substitute.
  - Substitutions are notified to the Steward prior to commencement of the Side Saddle Section classes.
28. In all Side Saddle classes, ponies must be four (4) years old or over; horses should be five (5) years old or over: Proof of age in the form of a veterinary certificate may be required.
29. Stallions may be ridden in the Side Saddle Section. The only limitation on entry is the availability of suitable secure stabling; and that the horse meets the primary requirement of being a "safe and comfortable ride for a lady, showing impeccable manners, paces and obedience".
30. The RAS 'Yellow Card' system (as per resolution of 2010 Remits) is recognised and will be offered for any inappropriate behaviour towards Show officials, Judges, fellow competitors or any other third party connected with the Show, bringing the Side Saddle discipline into disrepute, or cases which are of a less serious nature to the above, in accordance with the



Conduct of Members, Owners, Lessees, Competitors and/or Exhibitors as provide in the RAS Equestrian Competitors and Judges Rulebook and rule 13 of the RAS Constitution.

31. Disciplinary action will be taken against any person/exhibitor showing excessive use of the whip or spurs, jabbing the horse in the mouth or any offensive behaviour. The Yellow Card rule applies.
32. Safety of Tack:
  - All competitors' side saddles must be fitted with either an approved safety iron of the breakaway type, and/or an approved safety bar which will release the stirrup and leather easily. The release mechanism may be inspected and/or checked at the Ring Steward's or Judge's discretion.
  - All side saddles must be fitted with a leaping head.
33. In the Side Saddle Section, competitors are expected to wear the headwear appropriate for their age in the Turnout, Best Presented and Concours d'Elegance classes; i.e. top hat and veil, or bowler and veil, for Seniors, or an approved safety helmet with harness for Juniors. However, in the Ridden Classes, a Senior rider may choose to wear an approved safety helmet, with harness and of appropriate design, instead of the regulation headwear, and this will not be penalised.
34. In Side Saddle Jumping classes, *all* competitors **MUST** wear an approved safety helmet, with harness: the Steward will not allow any competitor to enter the ring without one.
35. Any rider may choose to wear a body protector under the habit jacket for either a Ridden Class or a Jumping class, and providing this is well-fitting and discreet, it will not be penalised.
36. A numnah may be used under the side saddle: where one is used, it must be shaped to the saddle and unobtrusive to the eye.

### Scoring

**The Title Class:** is judged as a Unity, based upon

- 1/3 Turnout
- 1/3 Paces, Manners and Suitability of the Horse
- 1/3 Ability of the rider

The combination of these three rankings will determine the final placings of that class. Where more than one judge is officiating, the results will be determined by consultation between the presiding judges.

**For all other classes:** In the event of a tie, the final placings will be determined as follows:

- Turnout – Turnout Mark
- Riding – Consultation between presiding judges, where more than one judge is officiating; otherwise the single judge's decision is final.
- Paces and Manners – Manners mark
- Suitability & Safety mark – a side saddle horse must impress the judge as '*a safe and comfortable ride for a lady, well-mannered and obedient*'.
- Jumping – Jump mark, where the entrant is required to jump.