



South Australian Harness Racing
Pony Association

RULES AND REGULATIONS
MANUAL



“Updated ~ JANUARY 2019”

South Australian Harness Racing Pony Association
(Hereafter called Association)

Affiliated Clubs
(Hereafter called Clubs)

South Australian Harness Racing Club

Kapunda Harness Racing Club

Mount Gambier Harness Racing Club

Port Pirie Harness Racing Club

Strathalbyn Harness Racing Club

Victor Harbor Harness Racing Club

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1 AIMS

The South Australian Harness Racing Pony Association commenced in South Australia in 1985 and has been conducted continuously since that date.

The aims of the Association are to foster the sport of pony racing for children between the ages of 6 to 16 years and to promote friendly competition in an atmosphere of co-operation and good sportsmanship and to encourage social interaction for all concerned.

Children are also taught the art of horsemanship and all aspects of adult Harness Racing competition.

2 HOT WEATHER POLICY

Does not apply anymore however you have the option to scratch without penalty.

3 STARTING TIMES

All Pony races are to be held in line with the first harness race unless advised differently.

4 SAFETY

Ponies left in stalls are to be tied up with a head collar and two leads securely. No ponies to be left unattended in stall area for more than 30 minutes after last pony race. Gate to be closed at all times.

All ponies are to be either walked or slowly trotted around the parade ring, as to not endanger other ponies and drivers.

Ponies are to be led to and from the race track gate with a lead rope clipped onto their head collar, and approve handler over the age of 16 years or at the SAHRPA Committee's discretion.

Any person whilst driving, riding or sitting on a horse or pony on a registered racecourse must wear an approved helmet; this includes racetrack surrounds and parade ring *by order Harness Racing SA*.

It is compulsory that protective **Level 3 Vests** are worn by participants due to the nature of the sport.

No more than ten (10) ponies in a race. Extra ponies in fields will only be allowed for "special nights" (eg Gawler Cup, Kapunda Cup etc).

5 SCRATCHINGS

A courtesy phone call to the Secretary or email saponytrots@yahoo.com.au if unable to attend a meeting. Penalty can apply.

6 ELIGIBILITY

6.1 PONIES

No ponies under 2 years of age may race.

Ponies of any breed (except stallions and colts) excluding standardbreds measuring 13 hands or under may compete in the OPEN section.

Ponies of the Shetland type (except stallions and colts) measuring 10.2 hands or under, may compete in the Shetland section providing there is a vacancy in the Shetland field.

Ponies should be presented in a healthy respectable appearance fit to race. Failure to do so may result in officials not allowing ponies to compete for a period they deem fit.

Ponies will be required to pay annual membership of \$20 per season.

Before a new pony is eligible to race it must trial first on three (3) separate occasions with at least 3 ponies in the trial and also complete three (3) separate parade ring drives or at the discretion of a Committee person or Stewards.

Ponies that haven't raced for 2 years or more must also trial on three separate occasions or at the discretion of a Committee person or Stewards.

6.2 MEASURING OF PONIES

All **new** ponies to be presented for measuring prior to trialing. All other ponies to be measured at commencement of season.

All ponies presented for measurement shall be in a sound, healthy and calm state.

Ponies can be either wearing shoes or barefooted.

Where the measurer is not satisfied with the presentation/condition of the pony, the matter shall be brought to the attention of Harness Racing SA representative, who shall take whatever action he deems necessary.

The design of the measuring stick and the use of the stick shall be approved by Harness Racing SA.

All measuring must be undertaken on a flat, level and hard surface (eg concrete slab) which has been laid in a horizontal plane.

The pony shall, stand up square, with legs perpendicular to the ground, the forelegs in line and the weight distributed evenly over all legs. The pony must not be stretched out.

The poll must not be lower than the highest point of the wither at the time of measurement.

The measurers will make an allowance of up to ¼” for shoes, (pony must be shod on all 4 feet for this allowance).

The measurement must be taken when the poll is level with the withers. The measurement shall be taken at the highest point of the withers.

6.3 DRIVERS

All drivers must be current financial members of the Association to be permitted to compete at all SA venues.

No Children are permitted to trial before the age of 6.

Children 6 years to 16 years of age. Drivers turning 17 years of age from 1st September a driver is eligible to compete to the end of the season.

The above is void should any driver obtain their Harness Racing ‘C’ Class Drivers Licence within a season. Their pony licence will be cancelled effective immediately.

Children wishing to drive in pony races must produce proof of age at the time of joining.

Permission to drive consent forms are to be completed and signed by Parents/Guardians before child is permitted to trial or drive in a race. Forms are to be submitted each season.

Before being allowed to race, drivers must perform satisfactorily before the stewards in a trial with at least 3 other starters. This will include rein use in close company, various passing manoeuvres, circling on the track, standing up and moving away quietly in company, ie attending trials that are near as possible to race conditions and demonstrating to the appointed person that the driver can handle the pony and that the pony is tractable to compete in a race.

To drive on a Licenced Track you must hold either a Stand-hand, Trainer or Driver’s Licence currently with Harness Racing SA for insurance purposes.

6.4 DRESS

Colours are to be made of racing type material and must be worn in a presentable fashion both on and off the track. Colours must be included on the entry form for racing.

All drivers must wear suitable protective headwear approved by Standards Australia.

All drivers required to wear enclosed leather boots (no laces) when competing.

All drivers must wear white pants.

6.5 CONVERSANT WITH RULES

Owners, Trainers, Drivers and Parents/Guardians of the children must be conversant with the Rules and Regulations Manual and must abide by them.

7 RULES OF RACING

7.1 EQUIPMENT

Sulkies are to have 20" wheels and be fitted with plastic wheel discs.

All sulkies must have a dust sheet made of acceptable material and be worn when competing. If you wish for an exemption to this rule, please outline a reasonable explanation in writing and forward to The Secretary which will then be discussed by the SAHRPA Committee for approval.

Stewards shall inspect all gear before racing and will not permit a pony to race until they are satisfied with the quality and presentation of pony and driver.

7.2 HANDICAPPING

All ponies will start at the discretion of the handicapper at beginning of season.

Winners to go back 20 metres. After 4 consecutive unplaced starts ponies will go forward 10 metres but ponies must have trotted majority of the race to get the lift.

Handicappers decision is final.

When the Association runs a combined Shetland/Open race the front will be subject to the discretion of the handicapping committee.

The winner of any "Cup Race" conducted by the Association shall be penalised Twenty (20) metres for the next cup race that is held in the current Racing Season.

To be eligible for a Cup Race all ponies must have raced 5 times in the current Racing Season.

Cup Handicapping to be done on Discretionary Handicapping. Final decision to be made by the Handicappers or Stewards.

At the discretion of the handicapping committee a pony may be brought forward to help it finish with field.

7.3 STEWARDS AND STARTERS

All competitors must **ABIDE** by the steward's decision at all times and their decision is final.

All Ponies noses must be on their starting marks. A penalty will apply at the Stewards discretion.

A new pony or driver may have permission from Stewards or Committee to allow an approved Pony Handler to assist or stand on the track.

If any pony by misbehaviour or for any other reason is in the opinion of the Starter liable to cause a delay to the start, the starter will warn the driver and shall not further delay the start.

The Starters decision shall be final and conclusive upon any question that may arise as to whether the pony should have started in the race.

The Starter shall give all such orders and take such measures as he/she may consider necessary for securing a fair start and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing the Starter:

“may disqualify a driver disobeying the Starters orders or attempting to take an unfair advantage in the start”

“shall report to the Stewards any driver who starts before the signal is given or who starts off the incorrect mark”

“may, if he/she considers that the start in the race is unsatisfactory declare a false start and re-start the race”

A driver who permits his/her pony to start in advance of its proper mark or before the start signal is given or attempts to take an unfair advantage at the start shall be guilty of an offence and will be relegated to last position. The Starter must notify any breach of the pending rule to the Stewards before all clear is given who will take the appropriate action.

The Starter shall have control of the ponies from the time they enter the track until the start of the race.

Attendants may hold a pony on the extreme outside of the track and must immediately move to the extremity of the track as not to obstruct other runners. Permission to hold pony on the extreme outside of track must be granted prior to Race Day.

When the Starter raises the flag all ponies should go to their mark ready to start. When the Starter drops his/her flag this is the signal to commence racing.

7.4 RACING RULES

No whips are permitted whilst on a race track for the purpose of ‘warming up’ or competing, parade ring or stalls area.

No competitor will be permitted to have a passenger on the side of the sulky at any time.

All drivers whilst in the sulky must drive throughout the race and back to the stall area and parade ring with both feet in the foot rests provided on the sulky and must sit on the end of the reins. All reins are to be joined at the ends. Drivers may be reprimanded, suspended or disqualified for breach of this rule.

If a pony gains ground whilst out of a trotting gait the Stewards shall determine the amount of ground gained and deduct this from the pony at the finishing post and amend the places if necessary.

If a pony continually gallops or misbehave in races it will be placed behind the back marker for 2 races or until such time as it races satisfactorily.

A driver shall not cause an opponent to be disadvantaged during a race through the actions of their pony, eg contact being made to an opposing pony, driver or its racing equipment, making undue noise so as to cause opponents pony to loose ground.

If the Stewards decide that an offence has been committed under this clause they may:

- Disqualify the pony from the event
- Place the pony in any finishing order they consider appropriate
- Reprimand driver

A pony may be disqualified from a race or placed behind any other competitor in the race if allowed to cross in front of any other pony without being clear of them, interfere wilfully or accidentally with any other pony, force another pony out of its ground, make a break in gait and allowed to gain ground, failing to keep a straight course when clear in the home straight, race or gain ground inside the peg line.

Only the winner is to return to scale to receive their medal/ribbon and have photo taken. All other ponies to leave the track along the Ambulance track.

Ponies and Driver's to be on course 30 minutes prior to their race and remain 20 minutes in the pony area on course after racing unless permission is obtain. Penalties will apply.

7.5 MISCONDUCT

Persons engaged in pony racing events are reminded that when they are competing at or attending licensed Harness Racing Meetings are under the jurisdiction of Harness Racing SA and would view misconduct in a most serious light.

Parental intervention and/or parental abuse **will** lead to suspension for a period to be determined by the Committee. At the discretion of the Association depending on the severity of circumstances a pony and/or parent may be fined, suspended, or disqualified.

Any decision of Committee in relation to any misconduct on the part of a participant will be final and not subject to appeal.

No alcohol or smoking is permitted near stalls and/or around drivers whilst racing.

Any driver found guilty of either using bad or abusive language towards other drivers or officials will be suspended for a period determined by the Stewards.

Any driver found guilty of cheating or assisting each other will be suspended for a period determined by the Stewards.

8 GENERAL

Our season starts from 1st September and ends on the 31st August.

As advised by SAHRC no ponies are to be on the training track at **anytime**.

All stalls to be cleaned up before leaving or penalties will apply.

Notwithstanding any rule herein before the Association committee may rule and act in a way they believe is in the best interests of pony racing and all persons involved in pony racing.

Any member who has a grievance with the Association shall present same in writing to the Committee, care of the Secretary, with full facts.

The Association may reject Membership and or a nomination without assigning any reason. Any person refused the right of membership or nomination may appeal the Association.

Non attendance of a committee member to monthly meetings for three meetings in a row with no reasonable explanation may be removed and a new committee member appointed.

The positions of Office Bearers can only be filled by Committee Members that have previously held a position on the committee (past or present) for a minimum of 12 months or more.