STANDARDBRED
PLEASURE & PERFORMANCE
HORSE ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA Inc.

SHOW RULES & POLICIES

Adopted August 2024
Updated October 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association Inc Rules and Policies, in order of precedence, is governed by:

1. The Rules of the Association.
2. Show Rules & Policies outlined in this document.
3. Specific show/event rules as outlined in the relevant show program.

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

a) All exhibitors lodging an entry into any Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association Inc. (SPPHAWA) event/s shall accept and be bound by these rules upon entering the event.

b) Competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with all rules and guidelines listed or referred to in this document. It remains the full responsibility of the owner / handler / rider to comply with the equipment rules and general rules as outlined.

c) Breach of the rules may entail elimination unless other penalties are stipulated.

1.2 ASSOCIATION LIABILITY

The Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association Inc (SPPHAWA) or any of its Agents, shall not be liable for any financial loss or damage, physical injury or property damage suffered by any person or animal by reason of any defect, accident, natural disaster, negligence, or neglect however arising.

1.3 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

a) Entries to events are to be submitted via methods listed in the show schedule and must be accompanied by the correct payment and all supporting documents by close of entries.

b) Incorrect and/or incomplete entries that have not been finalised by close of entries will not be accepted. Exhibitors will be sent only one email requesting any outstanding documents, monies etc be forwarded to the show committee.

c) By lodging an entry, the exhibitor shall be bound by the terms & conditions of the event. The signature on an entry form by an exhibitor shall be deemed to evidence acceptance of same.

1.4 SHOW COMMITTEE

Shall have the power, without assigning any reason to:

a) Reject or cancel any entry at any time.

b) Prohibit the participation by any person or exhibit in any event or class for which it is entered.

c) Cancel, combine or divide any event or class.

d) Alter the time at which any class or event is to take place.

e) Order the removal of any exhibit from the Show grounds.

f) Transfer an exhibit from any class to any other class.

g) Act upon any report of cruelty to any exhibit on the Showground.

h) Enforce the exclusion of any exhibit which has been excused from any class upon the direction of a Judge.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS, COMPETITORS & MEMBERS

All Spectators, Competitors & Members to a SPPHAWA event must adhere to the following policies;

a) Behave at all times in a proper and respectful manner towards show officials, judges, competitors and spectators.

b) Respect the decision of the Judge/s and teach/encourage accompanying spectators or competitors to do the same. Judges must not be approached prior, during or after the competition.

c) Do not consume or be affected by alcohol or other substances such that it impairs your judgement or the safety of yourself or others.

d) Refrain from any disorderly conduct or conduct that may damage the reputation and goodwill of SPPHAWA and its Sponsors or bring those into disrepute.

e) Do not use harassment, violence, abuse, foul language, intimidation or vilification of others including via social media under any circumstance.

f) Do not engage in conduct that is unethical or likely to cause harm to reputation of SPPHAWA, its affiliated parties and its associated events.

g) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow competitors, judges, officials, volunteers and spectators regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

h) Showing is subjective, so is subject to a Judges decision. The Judge's decision is final.

i) Any **competitor** whose conduct is found to be breaching any of these policies may be issued a warning by the Chief Steward and subsequently dismissed from the class or disqualified from the show. No refunds will be given should a competitor be disqualified. Conduct will be discussed at the next committee meeting and the person may be banned from attending/entering future events.

j) Any **spectator** whose conduct is found to be breaching any of these policies may be issued a warning by the Chief Steward and subsequently asked to leave the showgrounds. Conduct will be discussed at the next committee meeting and the person may be banned from attending/entering future events.

k) Any **members** whose conduct is found to be breaching any of these policies will be issued the above relevant penalties in addition to a review of their membership status.

2.1 COMMITTEE CONDUCT

All Committee Members must adhere to the following policies;

a) Committee accept that their position on the committee is to;
   i. Promote and raise the profile of the Standardbred and Partbred Standardbreds at equestrian events.
   ii. Provide fair and equal competition for competitors of all ages.
   iii. Adhere to the policies and procedures established through this document or the Rules and Policies.
   iv. Treat all people associated with SPPHAWA, including members, volunteers, external affiliates, and other committee members with respect.
   v. Always maintain confidentiality in relation to any information that is discussed, received or addressed.

b) Declare any conflicts of interest as they arise and act to ensure that these conflicts do not pose a risk to the association or its events.

c) Act impartially with all decisions on what is best for the club, not individual interest or gain. Do not accept or participate in any forms of bribery or corruption and to never take advantage of their position on the committee in any way.

d) The committee elect a Ground Jury prior to each event in the case of a protest or complaint. The Ground Jury will work together to finalise an outcome.

e) The committee seek to resolve conflicts fairly, promptly and impartially through established procedures as set out in the Complaints or Protests ruling on Page 5. All complaints are to be documented in writing.

f) Professionalism to be shown in all actions whilst representing the association. Language, presentation, punctuality and manner should be of a high standard.

g) Organising committees are obliged to publish the appointed Judges names in schedules and advertising in advance of the Show. Competitors are obliged to find out the appointed Judges for their classes to ensure no conflict of interest.

h) Committee Members exhibiting a horse at the event must not interact with the judge and all discussions must be made through the Chief Steward.

i) Should a committee member be found to not be adhering to these rules and policies, a meeting will be held with the remaining committee members to discuss the breaches of policy and an investigation to commence. A committee member found to be not acting in strict accordance with these rules and policies may be asked to resign their position on the committee, forfeit their membership for the remainder of the season or banned from attending future events. In these circumstances membership fees shall not be refunded.

OUR VALUES

RESPECT
- We show respect to everyone
- We value all involved in our association
- We encourage new ideas, feedback & views.



ACCOUNTABILITY
- We are fair, consistent & transparent
- We take ownership, build trust & rapport with all involved in our association
- We are committed to animal welfare & the integrity of the association

CONNECTION
- We create a welcoming environment
- We build and grow relationships with our members, sponsors and competitors
- We understand the importance of honesty and transparency

EXCELLENCE
- We strive for improvement & growth
- We take pride in the presentation & performance of the events we hold



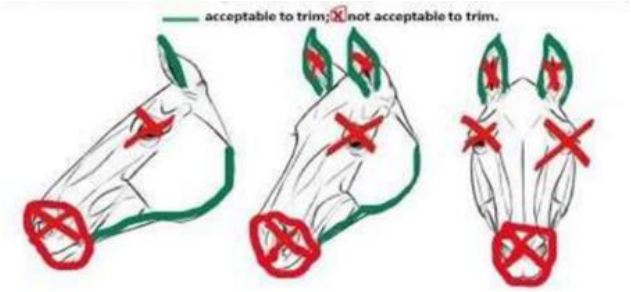
3. HORSE WELFARE

All Members, Competitors and Spectators to a SPPHAWA event must adhere to the following policies;

a) Welfare of horses at all SPPHAWA events is paramount.

b) Competitors must only bring healthy, sound horses that are free from any Prohibited Substances. Doping and use of elicit substances is not tolerated and is a serious welfare issue. Horses must receive adequate time to recover after any veterinary treatment before returning to Competition.

c) Sensory Hairs (Standardbreds, Thoroughbreds & Partbreds) - Sensory hairs must not be removed (eye hairs, whiskers and inner ears). Ears may be neatened but inner hair must not be removed. Any competitor who presents a horse to any class will be rejected entry to the ring if this ruling has been breached. It is a condition of entry provided on the program that you will abide by this ruling. No refunds will apply if entry to compete is denied. See diagram below for clarification;



d) Horses must not be subjected to methods that cause fear, discomfort, pain or are abuse. This includes natural riding aids and artificial aids(spurs/whips). Abuse can include but not be limited to:

   i. Leaving a horse without adequate food or water.
   ii. Competing on a lame, injured, bleeding or exhausted horse.
   iii. Extensive warm up, work or lunging of a horse that may cause, but not limited to, excessive sweating, lathering, heavy breathing, visible fatigue etc.
   iv. Using any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the horse.
   v. Excessive or misuse of a natural aid or whip. Cannot be used to vent an athlete's temper.
      a. The whip is not to be used during\after poor performance.
      b. Never to be used on a horses head.
      c. A Horse should not be hit unnecessarily, too often or excessively. The whip is not to be used more than two times for any one incident. Should skin be broken or welts shown, this is always deemed excessive even on the first hit.
      d. Whips must not exceed 120cm for Led classes & 75cm for Ridden classes. This includes the tassel.
   vi. Excessive use of spurs or the leg aid. Cannot be used to vent an athlete's temper. Spurs (if used) must be blunt and smooth. Dummy spurs with no shank are allowed.
   vii. Jabbing a horse in the mouth with the bit or any device.

e) Anyone that witnesses abuse must report it in the form of an Official Complaint to the Marshall or Chief Steward(if available) to be actioned. The Complaint will be recorded in writing, signed by the complainant together with any supporting evidence and names of witnesses. The Ground Jury will determine the complaint and call such evidence as they see fit.

f) Horse Abuse will not be tolerated and anyone found breaching the Horse Welfare policy may be disqualified by the Ground Jury. All prizes/awards will be forfeited and potentially banned from future events pending an investigation by the Committee. No refunds will be given for disqualification.

4. SWABBING

a) SPPHAWA perform random swabbing at our events to ensure that all horses are competing without being influenced by prohibited substances. A Substance list can be found here – Prohibited Substances Database

b) It's the responsibility of each competitor that they are bringing sound, healthy horses free from prohibited substances to a competition. Should a horse be under veterinarian treatment, it is the competitors responsibility to be aware of drug withdrawal times.

c) Any exhibit may be randomly selected to be swabbed for prohibited substances throughout an event. Selection will be done by ballot and conducted by the Chief Steward.

d) No entries may leave the grounds until the swab has been drawn & permission has been given from the Chief Steward.

e) The Competitor will be notified that they have been drawn and the Swab Steward will stay with your horse at all times until completion of the swabbing.

f) Should a protest be held for a horse to be swabbed, it must be received within 30 minutes of completion of the class. Any expenses relating to the swabbing of a horse will be met by the protester.

g) Should a competitor refuse for a swab to be taken, they must fill in a 'Refusal to Swab' form and they will be deemed to be breaching this policy with same penalties as a positive swab.

h) If an offence is proven as a result of a positive swab, the cost of drug testing and any associated costs to SPPHAWA will be invoiced to the offender.
i) SPPHAWA reserves the right to consider waiving of penalties if special circumstances warrant.
j) Should a Positive Swab be returned or a competitor refuses to swab, they will be sanctioned with the following;

i. First Offence – Automatic Disqualification & 6 Month Ban

Automatic Disqualification of all results including forfeiture of trophies, garlands, points, cash or any prizes awarded. Failure to return prizes will result in failure to attend future events until prizes are returned. Competitor will be banned from attending any SPPHAWA events for a period of 6 months.

ii. Second Offence – 1 Year Ban

Automatic Disqualification of all results including forfeiture of trophies, garlands, points, cash or any prizes awarded. Failure to return prizes will result in failure to attend future events until prizes are returned. Competitor will be banned from attending any SPPHAWA events for a period of 1 year.

iii. Third Offence – Lifetime Ban

Automatic Disqualification of all results including forfeiture of trophies, garlands, points, cash or any prizes awarded. Competitor will be banned from attending any SPPHAWA events indefinitely.

5. COMPLAINTS

A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction made, where a response or resolution is sought, expected or legally required. The committee seek to resolve complaints fairly, promptly and impartially through established procedures as set out below. Complaints relating to anything occurring during an event, can be lodged by, any person or body involved in any capacity at an event. All complaints are to be documented in writing through a Complaints Form.

5.1 COMPLAINTS PROCESS

1. Complaints must be put into writing and lodged by either;
   a. Using our Complaints Form (Accessible from the Marshall)
      i) Ground Jury will work to finalise an outcome in the event of a complaint. Complainants will be updated with the result of the complaint as soon as the outcome is finalized.
      ii) We will use the information you provide to assess, investigate and/or conciliate your complaint(s) and may contact you if more information is required. This will be tabled within 7-28 days of the submission.
   b. Using our online Feedback & Complaints Form – Feedback and Complaints Form
2. Should there be a conflict of interest between a committee member and the complainant, the committee member in question will not be eligible to partake in discussion or to vote on outcomes.
3. All complaints must be submitted within 7 days of the incident/event.
4. A Complaint cannot be submitted anonymously.

5.2 COMPLAINTS OUTCOME

1. Upon completion of an investigation, the complainant (and, if applicable, the respondent who is the subject of the complaint) will be given:
   a) Adequate reasons for any decision made.
   b) Any changes or action that have resulted from the complaint.
   c) A remedy, where appropriate.

6. FEEDBACK

Feedback can be a compliment, criticism, comment or suggestion where a response is not expected.

6.1 FEEDBACK PROCESS & OUTCOME

1. Feedback must be put into writing and can be lodged by our online Feedback & Complaints Form – Feedback and Complaints Form
2. Feedback will be taken and addressed at the next committee meeting. No further response unless specified on the form.
3. You are not required to provide your name or contact details as anonymous feedback is permitted. However, if you wish to receive a response, you must provide a valid email address.

7. PROTESTS

a) Protests must be put into writing by the complainant using the Protest Form along with the $100 fee.
b) Protests may only be lodged with the Chief Steward or Marshall and within 30 minutes of the completion, of the class in question.

c) Ground Jury will work to finalise an outcome. Complainants will be updated with the result of the protest as soon as the outcome is finalized. The complainant must not leave the grounds until the outcome is reached unless cleared by the Chief Steward/Ground Jury.
d) Should a protest be made against a member of the elected Ground Jury, the Ground Jury person will be ineligible to partake in the protest and an independent impartial individual will be chosen on the day (If possible).
e) A Judge's decision, representing his or her individual preference is not protest-able unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Show Rules or a conflict of interest.

8. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure the appropriate use of social media platforms to promote the activities and reputation of the Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of WA (Hereby referred to as SPPHAWA). This Policy is designed to protect the interests of SPPHAWA, its committee, members and the organisation.
   a) This Policy applies to SPPHAWA committee, volunteers, members, competitors and to any other person who is notified that this Policy applies to them.
   b) This Policy also applies to anyone officially appointed to represent SPPHAWA in social media or discussing SPPHAWA or its association-related issues in their personal use of social media platforms.
   c) Social media tools include (but are not exclusive to):
      i. Social networking sites e.g. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn.
      ii. Video and photo sharing websites e.g. Flickr, YouTube.
      iii. Micro-blogging sites e.g. Twitter.
      iv. Web blogs, including corporate blogs, personal blogs or blogs hosted by traditional media publications.
      v. Forums and discussion boards such as Yahoo Groups, Google Groups or other.
      vi. Online encyclopedias such as Wikipedia.
      vii. Any other web sites that allow individual users or companies to publish posts, images or moving media.
   d) This Policy does not apply to personal use of social media where no reference is made to SPPHAWA or any of its business, members or associated activities/events.
   e) When using social media engagement for business purposes, anyone representing SPPHAWA must:
      i. Disclose only publicly available information. Confidential SPPHAWA information must not be disclosed or commented on.
      ii. Provide new information as part of a planned media program only by arrangement with SPPHAWA Committee.
   f) Everyone using social media on behalf of SPPHAWA has a personal responsibility that includes:
      i. Ensuring that any content published is factually accurate and complies with relevant association policies.
      ii. Only offering advice, support or comment on topics that fall within their area of responsibility at SPPHAWA. If the situation requires a real time response, the other party should be made aware that the request has reached SPPHAWA committee for response.
      iii. Not posting material that is obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, discriminatory or hateful to another person or entity (including horses), including SPPHAWA, its members, committee, its sponsors, its partners, its competitors and/or other business-related individuals or organisations.
      iv. Not disclosing other people's personal information in social media venues.
   g) The personal responsibility of individuals also includes being respectful, as applies to all social media use. For SPPHAWA purposes, this means:
      i. Being respectful of all individuals and communities when interacting with them online.
      ii. Being polite and respectful of others' opinions, even in times of heated discussion and debate.
      iii. Adhering to the Terms of Use and seeking to conform to the cultural and behavioral norms, of the social media platform being used.
      iv. Respecting copyright, privacy, financial disclosure and other applicable laws when publishing on social media platforms.
   h) This Social Media Policy is also applied for those who choose to make references to SPPHAWA, its people, members or services, its competitors, and/or other association-related individuals or organisations on a social media platform in a personal capacity. It is important in these circumstances that readers of these posts do not misconstrue personal comments as representing an official SPPHAWA position. In these situations, the person using social media must:
      i. Identify themselves as a SPPHAWA committee member if they refer to SPPHAWA, its people, members and services, its competitors and/or other business-related individuals or organisations.
      ii. Ensure they do not imply in any way that they are authorised to speak on SPPHAWA's behalf.
      iii. Ensure they do not knowingly use the identity of another SPPHAWA committee member or a SPPHAWA sponsor or competitor.
      iv. Be mindful during the social media engagements of the importance of not damaging the organisation's reputation, interests and/or bringing SPPHAWA into disrepute.

v. Disclose only publicly available information. They must not comment on or disclose confidential SPPHAWA information (such as financial information, future association performance or meeting minutes, association plans or imminent departure of committee members).

vi. Not include SPPHAWA logos or trademarks or any of our funding partners or other business associates in any postings.

2. As is the case with all of SPPHAWA's policies and procedures, non-compliance with this Policy may result in disciplinary action, such as;
   a) Disciplinary action may involve a verbal or written warning or, in serious cases, termination of membership or engagement with SPPHAWA and SPPHAWA related events.

9. RIDDEN GRADING RULES – Standardbreds Only

9.1 Walk/Trot Ridden

1. Classes for Walk/Trot horses only. All horses will begin in this grade unless you decide to compete in canter classes at your first show. It is advisable to compete in at least one show at this level to ensure your horse is able to handle working along with other horses in a show environment. Walk Trot rules are as follows;
   a) Horses may remain at this level for 12 months at a minimum.
   b) Your 12-month time period starts from the first show attended at this grade.
   c) You may win unlimited champions during your 12 month time period.
   d) At the end of the 12 months, if you have achieved three or more champions you will be upgraded to Intermediate classification and advised by an upgrade letter.
   e) You many remain in this grade longer than 12 months if you have not won three champions, but once this has been achieved you must move into the Intermediate grade.
   f) You may choose to upgrade to the Intermediate ring at any time.
   g) Horses competing in Walk Trot classes are not to wear Double or Pelham Bridles and are to be ridden in a snaffle bridle.
2. If you compete in **ANY canter class** at **ANY OTHER** show not held by SPPHAWA you will no longer be eligible to compete in Walk/Trot classes at SPPHAWA run events. This includes canter tests in Dressage (Excluding Prep 3) & Eventing. Please note: Cantering at training days and Off The Track WA Clinics are allowed as long as there are no awards, prizes or placings given out. If you enter any Intermediate classes you will not be permitted to downgrade to Walk/Trot.

9.2 Intermediate Ridden

Is for all horses coming out of the Walk/Trot ring or any horse in the first years competing at canter level. Intermediate rules are as follows;

a) This section is designed for the horses in the process of mastering the gaits, transitions and outlines of an Open Hack but not yet at that level.
b) These horses should show a degree of softness throughout the gaits and be capable of executing canter on either rein.
c) It is expected some of the horses will be quite green but we encourage people to move their horses into this section to gain experience.
d) Should a Walk/Trot graded horse compete in this class, they will not be eligible to drop back to Walk Trot at a later date.
e) Horses will not be graded out of the Intermediate ring until the Committee is satisfied the horse can demonstrate clean transitions in all of its work, obedience to the rider at all times and can show a soft frame in all gaits.
f) At the completion of each season, the Intermediate graded horses will be assessed on their achievements and consistency of work throughout the year and the grading committee will determine whether they will be upgraded prior to the new season beginning.
g) A horse will not be moved into Open Classification mid-way through a season.
h) Horses competing in Intermediate classes are not to wear Double or Pelham Bridles and are to be ridden in a snaffle bridle.

9.3 Open Ridden

Is only for horses that have been approved and upgraded by the Committee. These horses consistently work at the desired level of education that all Standardbreds should be striving for. If your horse is assessed as successfully demonstrating these qualities throughout the season you will be advised by email deeming your upgraded status.
Any Open graded horse is permitted to wear a Double or Pelham style Bridle.