

Amateur Rules 2025

(for qualifying classes and finals to be held at the RIHS)

It is expected that Exhibitors will compete in the true spirit and fair play of these Rules. The Directors/Board/Council reserve the right, in their absolute discretion, to reclassify an Exhibitor's Amateur status/entry should they deem it necessary.

Ownership: All owners should be registered in the passport as per the latest DEFRA regulations.

Professional Show Producer/Trainer/Rider: A person who undertakes the preparation/training/ keeping at livery, production of equines/riders or competes as a Rider or jobbing Rider.

Professional Show Groom: A person who is employed full, part-time or is self-employed and receives remuneration, monetary or otherwise, for the preparation/training/keeping or production of equines.

No commercial branding can be visible in the ring, during an Amateur class **(including Amateur Home Produced)**; this applies to equines, riders and any attendees; **this also includes outside the ring, or online i.e., on social media. Care must be taken to not market sponsorship in any way shape or form which could be then attributed towards an Amateur; any such actions will result in the loss of Amateur status.**

(A) Professional Showing Status: anyone who has operated as a Professional Showing Producer, **Show** Rider or **Show** Groom will, for the purposes of these Rules, always be deemed a professional; including when acting as a Groom. **(If you are in any doubt as to your status, please contact the office and discuss).**

(B) Amateur Status – a person is an Amateur for the purpose of classes run under Association Rules if he/she does not, during the current or previous season:

- (i) Engage in showing livery/production, buying, selling, dealing or hiring of horses in any commercial capacity, or owning/standing a stallion at stud, teaching or coaching, as means of deriving a source of income.
- (ii) Receive remuneration, whether it be monetary or goods in kind, for employment in the connection with horses in showing livery/production, teaching or coaching, (instruction at Pony Club and Riding Club excepted). This Rule does not include the suppliers of ancillary services in equestrianism, such as farriers, vets, therapists or administrative office roles.
- (iii) Show a Horse owned or sponsored by a company or a commercial firm, or show a Horse for which his/her immediate family accepts showing livery production or training charges, from a person outside the immediate family concerned, in any showing classes, **[INSERT SOC / ASSOC NAME HERE]** or otherwise.

- (iv) Act as a Brand Ambassador, in any showing classes, **[INSERT SOC / ASSOC NAME HERE]** or otherwise.
- (v) A competitor is not eligible to compete in Amateur classes on an Exhibit, which has been ridden by a Professional Rider in **ANY** class, **[INSERT SOC / ASSOC NAME HERE]** or otherwise, with the exception of **Working and Side Saddle classes**, during the current year and the following year, up to and including the Royal International Horse Show.

(The above Rule does not apply, if the Horse has been Professionally Produced and ONLY ridden by a Showing Professional, during the previous season, or if the horse has subsequently been sold and re-registered under new Ownership).

- (vi) If you ride/compete equines on a regular basis, which you do not stable at home, your Amateur status will be reviewed by the Board/Council, i.e., if you ride/compete multiple equines or ride regularly for one or more owners, you could be deemed professional.

At any time whilst on the showground, where an Exhibit is going to be competing in Amateur classes, Showing Professionals, **including Professional Show Grooms**, are not allowed to ride, work-in (in any form), teach or coach the rider/horse, compete, or enter the Ring to groom/strip the Horse.

(C) Amateur Owner/Rider: Open to Horses owned and ridden by an Amateur. This ruling will also apply to Amateurs who wish to compete in the Annual Amateur Points Awards. No Showing Professional, **including Professional Show Grooms**, are allowed into the ring to groom/strip the Horse.

(D) Amateur Home Produced: Open to Horses, which are either stabled at home or in a D. I. Y. yard, assisted livery permitted, and which since 1st January in the current year, have not been shown by a Professional during the current season or stabled in a Professional yard at any time in the current year. To be ridden by an Amateur. This does not exclude Amateur Owner Home Produced riders having lessons at any time with an instructor, providing the Horse remains stabled at home. No Showing Professional, **including Professional Show Grooms**, are allowed into the ring to groom/strip the Horse.

- End -

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