



THE FRIENDLY SHOWING SOCIETY (TFSS)

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

Effective from: 2027

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This rulebook applies to all TFSS competitions unless otherwise stated in the relevant show schedule.

ABOUT THIS RULEBOOK

This rulebook applies to all TFSS competitions and qualifiers unless otherwise stated in the relevant show schedule.

TFSS Rules take precedence in all matters of welfare, safety, eligibility, conduct and discipline.

1. OBJECTIVES

The Friendly Showing Society (TFSS) exists to promote correct, fair and traditional showing standards, to place horse welfare above all competitive considerations, and to provide safe, friendly, inclusive and professionally run competition.

TFSS is open to all competitors. There are no amateur, professional or production-status restrictions unless expressly stated within a class schedule.

2. DEFINITIONS

TFSS

The Friendly Showing Society.

Competitor

Any person entering or competing in a TFSS class.

Judge

An individual appointed from the TFSS Approved Judges Panel.

Steward

An individual acting on behalf of TFSS or the organising show to enforce rules and ensure welfare and safety.

Qualification

Eligibility earned by a horse or pony and its rider or handler together to compete in a specified TFSS Championship class, subject to these rules.

Junior / Adult Definition (TFSS)

For TFSS purposes, a competitor is classed as an adult if they are aged 18 years or over on 1st January of the current showing year.

Any competitor who is under 18 years old on 1st January of that year will be classed as a junior, regardless of when they turn 18 during the year.

3. HORSE WELFARE

Horse welfare is the overriding principle at all TFSS-affiliated competitions.

Judges, Stewards and Show Officials have the authority to act in the interests of welfare and safety at any time.

They may:

- inspect tack, bits, spurs and equipment
- eliminate competitors where welfare or safety is compromised
- refuse entry to, or remove, any horse or pony deemed unfit, distressed, lame, exhausted or unsafe

In the interests of safety and welfare, any fall of horse, rider or handler will result in immediate disqualification.

Should an equine get loose in an in-hand class, this will result in immediate disqualification.

The Judge's decision in matters of welfare is final.

4. ELIGIBILITY

- Horses and ponies competing in all TFSS qualifying classes, with the exception of the In Hand Youngstock qualifier, must be four years old or over.
- The In Hand Youngstock qualifier is open to horses and ponies under four years of age: yearlings, two-year-olds and three-year-olds. No foals.
- Under TFSS rules, stallions are permitted to compete unless a show schedule explicitly states otherwise.
- Stallions must be appropriately registered with a recognised breed or discipline society where applicable and must be handled or ridden by a competent adult at all times.
- Junior competitors may not ride or handle stallions.

First Ridden Classes

- Riders must be aged three to eleven years inclusive on 1 January 2027.
- Ponies must not exceed 128 centimetres.
- Riders must ride independently, without a lead rein.

Lead Rein Classes

- Riders must be aged three to eight years inclusive on 1 January 2027.
- Ponies must not exceed 128 centimetres.
- The lead rein must remain attached to the noseband throughout the class.

Any additional eligibility requirements will be stated in the relevant class description or schedule.

5. EXHIBITOR MEMBERSHIP

TFSS exhibitor membership costs £10 per named competitor for 2027. Membership covers the competitor as a rider, an in-hand handler, or both. It cannot be transferred to another person.

Membership is not required to enter or qualify at a TFSS-affiliated qualifying show. Competitors must hold a valid, fully paid TFSS membership before submitting an entry for a Championship class.

Junior Membership

A competitor under 18 years of age on 1 January 2027 is classed as a junior.

A junior's membership must be applied for and managed by their parent, legal guardian or an adult authorised by their parent or legal guardian. Both the junior competitor and the responsible adult must be named on the application, with contact details supplied for the adult.

The responsible adult must accept the TFSS rules on the junior's behalf and arrange appropriate adult supervision at TFSS events. A parent, legal guardian or authorised supervising adult must be present and contactable throughout the junior's attendance.

The £10 membership fee covers the named junior competitor. The responsible adult does not require separate exhibitor membership unless they also compete as a rider or handler.

Membership Period

Membership is valid from the date it is confirmed by TFSS, or 1 January 2027 if later, until 31 December 2027. All 2027 memberships expire on that date, regardless of when they are purchased.

6. TACK & EQUIPMENT

All tack and equipment must be:

- safe

- correctly fitted
- appropriate to the class and type

Training aids are not permitted in the competition ring.

Earrings, body jewellery and facial piercings are not permitted, with the exception of a medical earring.

Any tack, bit or equipment deemed inappropriate by the Judge or Steward may be prohibited.

Current safety standard hats are recommended for adult competitors and are mandatory for junior competitors. Adult competitors must comply with the hat governance of the host show at which TFSS qualifying classes are run.

Body protectors may be worn at any time for safety reasons and will not be penalised.

Spurs

Spurs are permitted in ridden TFSS classes.

- Spurs must be plain, blunt, humane, and correctly fitted, and worn at the heel seam of the boot.
- Spurs must be no longer than 1 inch (2.5 cm), measured from the boot to the end of the spur
- Spurs are not permitted for riders under the age of 16.
- Riders aged 16 years and over may wear spurs, provided they are worn and used correctly.
- Competitors must comply with the rules of the host show and are responsible for checking individual show schedules, as spur regulations may vary.

Excessive, incorrect, or inappropriate use of spurs is not permitted and may be penalised.

Any spur, or use of a spur, considered unsafe or detrimental to horse welfare may be disallowed at the discretion of the judge or steward.

7. JUDGES & STEWARDS

All judges officiating at TFSS competitions, including qualifying classes held at affiliated shows and Championship classes, must be listed on the TFSS Approved Judges Panel for the relevant showing year.

Membership of another society's judging panel alone does not meet this requirement.

No Judge may judge any animal that is owned or has been owned by them, or from which they have received any financial benefit through production or sale.

Stewards act on behalf of TFSS and have authority to enforce these Rules in the interests of welfare, safety and fairness.

Judges will not ride competitors' horses or ponies in any TFSS qualifying or Championship class. Competitors may be asked to perform an individual show or ride as part of the class format. Judges will assess competitors using the format determined by the show schedule and conditions on the day.

All judging decisions are final.

In exceptional circumstances, TFSS may approve the substitution of a Judge from the TFSS Approved Judges Panel at short notice. Any such substitution must be approved by TFSS prior to the class being judged.

8. TFSS QUALIFYING CLASSES

TFSS qualifying classes may be offered in-hand and/or ridden, subject to approval.

All horses and ponies competing in TFSS qualifying classes must meet the eligibility requirements set out in this Rulebook, including minimum age requirements.

Qualifying classes may include, but are not limited to:

In Hand Qualifiers:

- Open In Hand Cob
- Open In Hand Coloured Horse or Pony
- Open In Hand Riding Horse / Hack
- Open In Hand Hunter
- Open In Hand Small Breed Mountain & Moorland
- Open In Hand Large Breed Mountain & Moorland
- Open In Hand Youngstock
- Racehorse Revisited In Hand
- In Hand Veteran Horse or Pony

Ridden Qualifiers:

- Open Ridden Cob

- Open Ridden Coloured Horse or Pony
- Open Riding Horse / Hack
- Open Ridden Hunter
- Open Ridden Small Breed Mountain & Moorland
- Open Ridden Large Breed Mountain & Moorland
- Racehorse Revisited Ridden
- Ridden Veteran Horse or Pony
- Lead Rein
- First Ridden

Full class specifications and eligibility requirements are set out in Appendix A, 2027 Class Specifications, which forms part of this Rulebook and must be read alongside the general rules.

The same specifications are published separately in the TFSS Qualifier Schedule for use by affiliated shows. Affiliated shows must use the current TFSS-approved wording.

9. QUALIFICATION MECHANICS

The eligible combinations placed first and second qualify, provided they have not already qualified for the same TFSS Championship class. A maximum of two new qualifications may be awarded in each approved TFSS qualifying class.

If either combination has already qualified, the qualifying place may pass to the eligible combination placed third. Qualification will not pass to fourth place or below.

If both first and second have already qualified, only the eligible combination placed third may gain a new qualification.

All qualifications remain subject to the judge's discretion to withhold qualification where the required standard has not been met.

Qualification belongs to the horse or pony and rider or handler combination that gained it. The same rider or handler must compete with the same horse or pony at the Championships. No substitutions are permitted.

Qualification applies only to the Championship class for which it was awarded. In-hand and ridden qualifications are separate.

The rider or handler must meet all applicable class eligibility and membership requirements at the Championships.

10. JUDGE DISCRETION TO WITHHOLD QUALIFICATION

Qualification is awarded at the discretion of the Judge.

The Judge may withhold qualification if the required standard has not been met, regardless of placing.

The Judge's decision to award or withhold qualification is final and not subject to appeal.

11. QUALIFICATION CARDS & PASSPORTS

Qualification cards must be fully completed and include:

- the horse or pony's name as recorded in its passport
- the qualifying rider or handler's full name
- the qualifying show, date and TFSS class
- the judge's signature and date

The rider or handler named on the qualification card must be the person competing with that horse or pony in the relevant Championship class.

It is the competitor's responsibility to submit:

- the completed qualification card, and
- a clear copy of the horse or pony's passport identification page

Passport identification must be submitted electronically together with qualification documentation in accordance with TFSS instructions.

Equines should be fully up to date with annual equine influenza vaccinations.

Equine passports are not required to be presented at TFSS qualifying shows, however competitors are strongly advised to carry the passport when attending any show.

Equine passports must be presented and may be verified at TFSS Championships or Finals.

Equine passports must be carried when travelling to and from shows and must be available on request to comply with current UK legislation.

TFSS accepts no responsibility for missing, incomplete or incorrectly submitted documentation.

12. CONDUCT, BEHAVIOUR & SOCIAL MEDIA

TFSS expects all competitors, owners, producers, officials and supporters to conduct themselves in a respectful, sportsmanlike, and responsible manner at all times.

This applies:

- before competitions
- during competitions
- after competitions
- and across all online platforms, including social media.

Mobile phones or any other means of digital communication are not permitted in the competition ring.

Abuse of horses, officials, judges, stewards, volunteers or other competitors will not be tolerated.

Unsporting behaviour, including defamatory, abusive or inflammatory comments made online that are likely to bring TFSS, its officials or its competitions into disrepute, will be treated as a breach of TFSS Rules.

By entering any TFSS class or event, competitors agree to be photographed and for those images to be used for promotional purposes, including but not limited to social media.

TFSS reserves the right to investigate conduct and may issue warnings, eliminate competitors, withdraw qualification, or refuse future participation.

13. COMPLAINTS & PROTESTS

Complaints or protests will only be considered where there is an alleged breach of TFSS Rules, eligibility or procedure.

Complaints must:

- be made in writing
- be submitted within 24 hours of the class concerned
- be accompanied by a £50 protest fee

The protest fee will be returned only if the complaint is upheld.

Complaints relating solely to judging opinion, placings or marks will not be accepted.

All TFSS decisions are final.

14. INSURANCE & LIABILITY

All competitors enter and compete entirely at their own risk.

Horses, riders, handlers, and grooms must be adequately insured.

TFSS will not accept liability for any accident, injury, loss, damage or illness to spectators, riders, handlers, ponies, horses, vehicles, equipment or property howsoever caused.

15. FINAL AUTHORITY

TFSS reserves the right to interpret and enforce these Rules and to make decisions in the interests of welfare, fairness and the reputation of the Society.

In all cases, TFSS decisions are final.

16. DATA PROTECTION

TFSS collects and processes competitor names, contact details, membership records, horse or pony details, qualification records and results to administer memberships, qualifications, Championships, results publication and Society communications.

For junior competitors, TFSS also collects their date of birth and the name and contact details of their parent, legal guardian or authorised responsible adult to administer junior membership and supervision arrangements.

Personal data will only be shared where necessary to administer TFSS activities or where legally required.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE

SHOW AFFILIATION

The TFSS affiliation fee for the 2027 Championship qualifying season is a fixed £25 per show, regardless of how many TFSS qualifying classes are offered. Organisers may offer one, some or all of the TFSS qualifying classes, subject to approval. The total affiliation fee remains £25.

Official TFSS qualification cards for all approved qualifying classes are included in the fee. These will be sent directly to the show secretary at the address provided in the application.

Applications must be submitted through Entrymaster. Affiliation is confirmed once TFSS has approved the application and received full payment.

All TFSS qualifying classes must be judged by a current TFSS Approved Judges Panel judge. Organisers must submit their proposed qualifying classes and judges for approval and include the current TFSS class specifications and qualification wording in their show schedule.

Any changes to approved classes, judges, schedule, venue or welfare arrangements require prior written approval from TFSS.

Class entry fees are set by the organising show.

All shows, judges and officials operate as independent third parties. TFSS provides affiliation, qualification oversight and governance

WITHDRAWAL / CHANGE OF QUALIFIER STATUS

TFSS reserves the right to withdraw, suspend or amend qualifying status where a show materially alters its approved classes, judges, schedule, venue, or welfare arrangements without prior written approval from TFSS.

BRANDING

The TFSS name, logo and branding may only be used in connection with classes, shows and qualifiers that have been formally approved by TFSS. Unauthorised use of TFSS branding may result in withdrawal of qualifying status.

APPENDIX A

2027 CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

These specifications apply to TFSS qualifying classes and their corresponding 2027 Championship classes. They must be read alongside the TFSS Official Rulebook.

General conditions

- Horses and ponies must be four years old or over, except those entered in In Hand Youngstock.
- Mountain & Moorland registration must be evidenced by a breed society passport or registration certificate. Part-breds are not eligible.
- Stallions are subject to the handbook's eligibility and handling requirements. Stallions are not permitted in Lead Rein or First Ridden.
- All riders must be suitably mounted.

All TFSS qualifying and Championship classes must be judged by a current TFSS Approved Judges Panel judge. Judges will not ride competitors' horses or ponies.

Class	Eligibility and class requirements
Open In Hand Cob	Open to horses and ponies of all cob types, including traditional and non-traditional cobs. Exhibits must be presented in accordance with their type.
Open In Hand Coloured Horse or Pony	Open to horses and ponies of any breed or type with piebald, skewbald, tricoloured or spotted coat patterns, and to roan, palomino and dun horses and ponies. White facial or leg markings alone do not confer eligibility. Exhibits must be presented in accordance with their type.
Open In Hand Riding Horse / Hack	Open to horses exceeding 148 centimetres of riding horse or hack type. Judging will place emphasis on quality, conformation, movement, manners and suitability for the relevant type.
Open In Hand Hunter	Open to horses and ponies of hunter type, including lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight types where applicable. Exhibits must be presented in accordance with their type.
Open In Hand Small Breed	Open to registered purebred Dartmoor, Exmoor, Shetland, Welsh Section A and Welsh Section B ponies. Ponies must be presented in

Mountain & Moorland	accordance with their respective breed society's showing standards and shown true to breed type.
Open In Hand Large Breed Mountain & Moorland	Open to registered purebred Connemara, Dales, Fell, Highland, New Forest, Welsh Section C and Welsh Section D ponies. Ponies must be presented in accordance with their respective breed society's showing standards and shown true to breed type.
Open In Hand Youngstock	Open to horses and ponies aged one, two or three years, shown in hand only. No foals. Exhibits must be presented in accordance with their type. Judging will place emphasis on correctness, manners, movement and future potential.
Racehorse Revisited In Hand	Open to Thoroughbreds that have been trained for racing or have raced. All exhibits must hold a Weatherbys passport. Horses that were trained for racing but did not race are eligible.
In Hand Veteran Horse or Pony	Open to horses and ponies aged fifteen years and over, of any breed, height or type. Exhibits will be judged with consideration for their age, condition, fitness, manners and welfare.

Class	Eligibility and class requirements
Open Ridden Cob	Open to horses and ponies of all cob types, including traditional and non-traditional cobs. Exhibits must be presented in accordance with their type. Judging will place emphasis on type, conformation, manners, movement and way of going.
Open Ridden Coloured Horse or Pony	Open to horses and ponies of any breed or type with piebald, skewbald, tricoloured or spotted coat patterns, and to roan, palomino and dun horses and ponies. White facial or leg markings alone do not confer eligibility. Exhibits must be presented in accordance with their type.
Open Riding Horse / Hack	Open to horses exceeding 148 centimetres of riding horse or hack type. Judging will place emphasis on quality, conformation, manners, movement and suitability for the relevant type.
Open Ridden Hunter	Open to horses and ponies of hunter type, including lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight types where applicable. Judging will place emphasis on type, conformation, manners, movement and way of going.

Open Ridden Small Breed Mountain & Moorland	Open to registered purebred Dartmoor, Exmoor, Shetland, Welsh Section A and Welsh Section B ponies. Ponies must be presented in accordance with their respective breed society's showing standards. Judging will place emphasis on breed type, conformation, manners, movement and way of going.
Open Ridden Large Breed Mountain & Moorland	Open to registered purebred Connemara, Dales, Fell, Highland, New Forest, Welsh Section C and Welsh Section D ponies. Ponies must be presented in accordance with their respective breed society's showing standards. Judging will place emphasis on breed type, conformation, manners, movement and way of going.
Racehorse Revisited Ridden	Open to Thoroughbreds that have been trained for racing or have raced. All exhibits must hold a Weatherbys passport. Horses that were trained for racing but did not race are eligible.
Ridden Veteran Horse or Pony	Open to horses and ponies aged fifteen years and over, of any breed, height or type. Exhibits will be judged with consideration for their age, condition, fitness, manners, way of going and welfare.
Lead Rein	Open to mares and geldings of any breed or type, not exceeding 128 centimetres. Riders must be aged three to eight years inclusive on 1 January 2027 . The lead rein must remain attached to the noseband throughout the class. Judging will place emphasis on safety, manners and the suitability of the pony and rider combination.
First Ridden	Open to mares and geldings of any breed or type, not exceeding 128 centimetres. Riders must be aged three to eleven years inclusive on 1 January 2027 . Riders must ride independently, without a lead rein. Judging will place emphasis on manners, confidence, suitability and the pony and rider partnership.