# 2026 RULES

## The NCPA operates under the current Welfare rules of The Showing Council

## GENERAL RULES

**1** No substitution of nominated entries permitted. **Only animals entered in the classes are permitted on the showground.**

**2** **Entry fees will not be refunded** and it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that their entry is correct, eligible and available when called for their class.

**3** Pink Cards: **Animal Registration Number** must be entered for **any** NCPA Registered class.

**4** The Organising Committee reserve the right to amalgamate or split classes and alter or amend the running order of classes.

**5** Exhibitors must enter the ring wearing the number allocated for that animal/class.

**6** The Judge's decision is **FINAL**. A judge may require a horse/pony which constitutes a danger to leave the ring.

**7** Horses/ponies must be registered and entered at any show in the name of the legal owner.

**8 Any Owner, Rider, Producer or Horse/Pony that is banned for any period of time as a result of any disciplinary action taken by any member body of The Showing Council may not compete in NPS Affiliated classes at the discretion of the NPS Council. Any action taken by the NPS against any Owner, Rider, Producer or Horse/Pony may be shared with the other member bodies of The Showing Council and similar disciplinary actions taken.**

**9 Equine Influenza Vaccinations**

Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all horses registered with the Northern Counties Pony Association. The requirement for the first 3 vaccinations is as follows: the first 2 vaccinations 21 – 92 days apart, a third booster between 150-215 days, and an annual booster vaccination within 365 days thereafter. No horse should enter competitions within 7 days of an EI vaccination. Foals should commence vaccinations at 6 months old. This Rule **may be subject to change** from guidance from the FEI/BEF and any changes will be notified via the Northern Counties Pony Association website. The current **FEI** ruling is for a six monthly booster as opposed to annual; therefore it is recommended that you check with shows that fall under FEI regulation before entering e.g. Windsor, Hickstead, HOYS etc.

**9a All horses/ponies exhibited must be entered in the name under which they have been originally registered with the GSB, NPS, M&M Stud Book or any other recognised Society.**

**10** An exhibitor may not knowingly exhibit a horse/pony bred, sold, leased or produced by the Judge, his/her immediate family or his/her employer.

**11** A rider may not ride in a class judged by someone for whom he/she has ridden in a competition during the **current** year.
**12** An exhibitor may not show under a Judge for whom he/she has produced a horse/pony in the
**current** year.
**13** Any objection or complaint must be made in writing with a deposit of £50 within 30 minutes of
the incident occurring; refundable if upheld.
**14** The Organising Branch or Committee accept no responsibility whatsoever for any loss, injury or damage to any person or their property whilst on the showground, car parks or approaches.
**15** In the event of a show being cancelled, entry fees, **less a deduction for administration charges, to be determined by the organizing committee,** will be refunded.
**16 Exhibitors must take into consideration that classes may clash. If this occurs, they must**
**nominate which class they wish to compete in.**
**17** The mucking out of horse boxes/trailers is not permitted on the showground and a penalty will
be incurred.
**18 Exhibitors are advised that all horses/ponies must be insured for public liability.**

## RIDERS/HANDLERS

**19 Correctly secured BSI skull caps/riding hats – to CURRENT STANDARD must be worn at all times when mounted and for entrants in YOUNG HANDLER classes – see website for current standards.**
**In certain BSPS classes hats MUST have been tagged.** In ridden classes correct riding attire to be worn. **Body protectors may be worn. Earrings/studs/piercings must not be worn.**
**20 Spurs or dress spurs must not be worn in the Show Pony, Show Hunter Pony, Intermediate, Working Hunter Pony or any Mountain and Moorland ridden classes. In other classes riders must be over 18 years of age on 1st January in the current year.**
**20a Show canes and whips** are not to exceed 75cms (30ins) in any classes (ridden or in-hand). Hunting crops are permissible in adult ridden championship classes. The use of schooling whips is not permitted within any area of a showground. **For guidance:** Where lunging is permitted, the use of a lunging whip 'against' the horse is not permitted. In **Lead Rein classes**, plain or leather-covered canes only may be used. If mis-used, in the opinion of the Judge, an exhibitor may be sent out of the ring and reported to the NCPA Council.
**21** Riders or handlers may only compete with one horse/pony in any one class **except NCPA Registered WHP & mixed height WHP classes & where other society rules allow. Back protectors are advised – see website for current standards.**
**22** A fall of a **mounted horse/pony** or **rider in any class** will result in disqualification and they must leave the ring **unmounted. A fall of horse/pony or handler in any class may continue at the judge's discretion.**

**23** Riders must have attained their 3rd birthday **on the day of the Show**.
**24** In **Lead Rein** classes the leader **must be 16 years old or over** and may only lead one pony in a class. Whilst in the ring, ponies must be led at all times by the handler. **Handles on saddles are permitted.**
**25 Competitors shall not ill-treat horses/ponies at any time whether by misuse or excessive use of a whip or by any item of saddlery or in any other way whatsoever and shall not cause or allow a horse/pony to jump any hand-held obstacle or to be rapped.**
26 Competitors are responsible for the actions of any non-competitor employed by them or assisting or representing them, or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or conduct of such non-competitors.
**27** Exhibitors and their grooms must, at all times, present themselves in the show ring neatly and smartly dressed. **Hats for grooms are encouraged.**
**28** Young handlers **MUST** wear a hard hat whilst showing in-hand. (see **Rule 19**) and all handlers are advised to do so in the interests of safety.
**29 NCPA requires that all riders consider the weight of the combined tack & rider when mounted, whether in, or outside the ring. In the interests of animal welfare. Show officials have the right to ask those considered unsuitably mounted to dismount and leave the ring. All competitors must respectfully adhere to the decisions of the show officials.**

## HORSES/PONIES

**30** The Organising Committee reserves the right to expel any horse/pony from the ring, which is not deemed to be fit or under sufficient control.
**31** Horses/ponies must be four years old or over in all ridden classes. The age shall be calculated from 1st January in the year of its birth.

**32** Mares with a living foal born during the current season are not eligible to compete in ridden classes. **Broodmares must not have face whiskers removed & other animals will not be penalised for having**
**whiskers. No Welsh pony in hand or ridden may have its whiskers trimmed. From 2023 it is likely that removal of whiskers *from any animal* will be prohibited.**
**33** All stallions and 2/3 year old colts must hold a current licence (unless otherwise governed by the individual Breed Society), and MAY NOT BE ENTERED in any Young Handler, Lead Rein, First Ridden or Junior Mountain and Moorland classes. **Stallion discs should be worn.**
**34** Stallions and colts must be adequately bitted and under control of a handler aged 14 years and over.
**35** No ridden pony shall be shown on a leading rein except those exhibited in classes confined to Leading Rein Ponies, or unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
**36** ONLY mares and geldings are eligible in any Lead Rein or First Ridden classes and Junior Mountain and Moorland classes.

**37** First Ridden, Novice Show Ponies, Novice Show Hunter Ponies, Novice Intermediate Show Riding Types, Novice Intermediate Show Hunters and Novice Mountain and Moorland ponies may be shown in any suitable bridle **except where other society rules list snaffles**.
**37a The definition of a novice animal will be taken as per the rules of the society that the class is run under and/or the Showing Council's shared rules.**
**38** In Leading Rein classes, the lead rein must be affixed to the noseband only. The reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands. **Snaffle bits only.** Handles on saddles are permitted
**39** In First Ridden classes, ponies must not be cantered except in their individual shows. Ponies in Show Pony, Show Hunter Pony classes may be galloped 4 at a time only, **except where other society rules allow. Mountain and Moorland ponies must not be galloped as a group.**
**40 Mountain and Moorland ponies MUST be fully registered with their Breed Society and must be trimmed according to the individual breed standards in order to maintain their breed classification.**
**41 In ALL Mountain and Moorland classes, Ridden and In-hand, ponies must be shown as per their Breed Society Rules and are restricted to the height limits laid down by these societies. Stallion discs should be worn.**
**42** In **ALL** Riding Pony Breeding and Mountain and Moorland classes, brood mares must be 4 years old and over.
**43** Brood mares with foal at foot will be eligible for entry In-hand. Foals should accompany mares into the ring but must be haltered and under control of a competent handler.
**44** Foals must be shown in a halter or leather head collar. No foal to be shown in a bit of any type. Foals must be a **minimum** of 21 days old on the day of the Show.
**45** Bit-less bridles and running gags are not permitted.
**46** Protective leg boots of a plain colour may be worn on the **front legs** for Working Hunter/Working Hunter Pony classes only and are not permitted for any other classes. No bandages or protective pads on horses'/ponies' legs or feet are permissible. Normal shaped open heeled plastic stick-on shoes are permissible. **Veteran** animals **only** may wear bar shoes.
**47** No horses/ponies should be left unattended at any time, including when tied to a lorry/trailer.

## RING DISCIPLINE

**48** Competitors are not allowed to withdraw from any class without the Judge's permission.
**49** The class is completed when the Judge dismisses the class.
**50** No person other than the Judge and the official course builder appointed by the Show is permitted to alter the course.
**51 Consideration and good manners must be shown to other competitors and officials at all times. Instructions from any official must be followed.**

## JUDGES

***NCPA Judges must not knowingly:***

**52** Judge ponies owned, leased, loaned, produced or ridden by a person or their immediate family
who keeps, or has kept any horses or ponies at livery/stud with him or if he has or has or had any ponies or horses at livery/stud, leased or loaned to or produced by the exhibitor/producer since 1st January of the **current** year. **Stud fees are exempt.**

**53** Adjudicate in a class if he owns or has owned, bred, sold, leased, loaned, produced, ridden or received financial gain from an exhibit in that class (**group** teach-ins/clinics are exempt but not lessons)

**54** Judge ponies that are or have been owned, produced, exhibited, bred or ridden by a member of their Immediate Family, a godchild or by anyone with whom he is in a business partnership, employed by, or an employee of, or lives with.

**55** Judge animals owned or produced by a person who he has purchased animals from or sold animals to since 1st January of the current year.

**56** If a judge has reasonable grounds for belief that any of rules **52, 53, 54, and 55** are being contravened he must ask the rider to leave the ring and that rider **must** withdraw. The judge's decision is final in all cases.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

57 Members should ensure that any material that they transmit or post to social media is clearly stated to be their personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the NCPA. **Judges should be careful what they post, particularly those listing any society judging panels in their bio. They should also be careful when commenting on animals that they may have or might judge, as well as shows at which they may be or have been officiating.**

58 Members must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the NCPA, its members or former members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the NCPA.

59 Members must not post or transmit any material relating to the NCPA, members or former members or their horses or ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the NCPA, that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience, or which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the Rules of the NCPA or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in, the UK or any other country in the world.

**60 Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the NCPA Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.**

# TSC Hat Recommendations 2026 V1 Nov 2025

We recommend that at all times, correctly secured skull caps/riding hats that meet one of the current standards as listed below, should be worn by all riders. However, when jumping in the ring, all practice areas or collecting areas, all riders *must* wear correctly secured skull caps/riding hats that meet one of the following current standards as listed below:

**Hats should meet all of the requirements of one of the following rows:**

| | Standard | Date | Quality Assurance Mark | Examples |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **PAS 015** | **2011** | **AND MUST HAVE**<br>BSI Kitemark<br>Or Inspec IC Mark | |
| 2 | **VG1 01.040** | **2014-12** | **AND MUST HAVE**<br>BSI Kitemark<br>Or Inspec IC Mark | |
| 3 | **ASTM F1163** | **2015 or 2023** | **AND MUST HAVE**<br>SEI mark | |
| 4 | **SNELL** | **E2016 or 2021 onwards** | **AND MUST HAVE**<br>Official SNELL label and number | |
| 5 | **EN1384** | **2023** | **AND MUST HAVE**<br>BSI Kitemark<br>Or Inspec IC Mark | |

# TSC Body Protector Recommendations 2026 v1 Nov 2025

Where Rules state Body Protectors are to be worn, we recommend they meet the following specification:

**A BETA Level 3 displaying a BLUE 2018 Label**

| 2000 NOT RECOMMENDED | 2009 NOT RECOMMENDED | 2018 RECOMMENDED |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**Examples:**

Please Note; these pictures are only intended for illustrating where the BETA label can often be found. A full list of BETA Level 3 body protectors can be obtained from www.beta-uk.org

- Any other levels / dates are not advised
- Air Jackets are permitted in all classes and maybe worn with or without another body protector underneath
- Hybrid Air-Jackets (a manufactured Level 3 Body Protector with an Air Jacket all-in-one) are permitted in all classes
- Blouson and show jacket type air jackets are permitted in all classes

| Air Jacket | Hybrid Air Jacket | Blouson Jacket | Show Jacket |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |