



PAINT HORSE  
ASSOCIATION  
OF AUSTRALIA

## SECTION C

# SHOW INFORMATION RULES & REGULATIONS

The Paint Horse Association of Australia was formed in 1971 as a breed registry and association to provide members with record keeping of the paint horse breed here in Australia.

We strive to provide our members with a fun, inclusive and progressive association, bringing people together that share a passion for the paint horse breed. We celebrate our rich history paying homage to the past with our Hall of Fame, honorary lifetime members and the evolution of our association.

Our vision is to be the game changer of our industry and secure the future of the paint horse breed here in Australia; proactively developing fresh and exciting incentives to offer our members 'more than membership'.

### 2026 PHAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

This Show Information Booklet has been compiled to make your National Show experience as pleasurable and enjoyable as possible. We trust that you will find the answers to many of your questions in this Booklet. The PHAA National Show is run under the rules of the PHAA, AQHA, E.A. & HSAA along with the guidelines, policies and rules as printed herein.

## CLASS RULES AND CONDITIONS

All owners, exhibitors, riders and handlers must be current financial members of good standing with the PHAA. All Amateur Owner exhibitors must hold a current Amateur Owner card with the PHAA at the time of entry. All horses exhibited at the National Show must be registered with the PHAA.

**LATE ENTRIES:** Late entries for feature events will be permitted at \$100 PER HORSE PER FEATURE plus feature class entry cost and must be in by 5.00 PM the day before the event.

Late entries for National Show classes will be accepted at the Show Office up to 5.00 PM the day before the event is to be held, provided there are already a minimum of three horses entered in the event. Late penalty fee of \$30 per class, capped at \$150 per lodgement, plus normal entry fee will apply. The Youth Class late fee is \$30.

**CLASS ENTRY COSTS:** Open Classes – \$44/class, Amateur Classes – \$44/class, Youth Classes – \$32/class, Feature Events – \$150, \$1000 Features – \$150. Ranch Horse Versatility – \$220 includes \$44 cattle hire. Box and Drive – \$88 includes \$44 cattle hire.

**SCRATCHING/WITHDRAWAL** for a class. If withdrawing/scratching from a class, please notify the show office before the event to assist in the smooth running of the show.

**SUBSTITUTING CLASSES** is not permitted under any circumstances.

**SUBSTITUTING HORSES** is only permitted in youth events and amateur owner events, provided a certificate from the PHAA nominated show veterinarian is provided stating the original horse nominated was unfit to compete in that event. All other PHAA eligibility rules apply.

**SUBSTITUTING RIDERS** is only allowed in open classes, and the name of the rider/exhibitor substitution must be lodged with the show official at least one hour before the commencement of the event. The substitute rider must have already entered the show; otherwise, a late entry fee applies.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** An application for a refund must be submitted on the PHAA refund request form and lodged with the Show Office during the show, or to the PHAA office by 31 May, 2026. No refund will be considered after this date.

All applications for refunds are considered by the PHAA Board of Directors at the first available meeting after the National Show. Refund approvals are at the Board's discretion based on the information supplied. Only horses that have been correctly scratched from a class with the show official before the event/s will be eligible for a refund. Refunds will only be considered if furnished with a veterinary certificate stating that the horse entered was unfit to compete in a specified event.

A Doctor's certificate for the competitor or any other person will not be considered for a refund.

Approved refunds will be deposited into the account of the exhibitor within thirty days of the board meeting at which the refund was approved. An administration fee will be retained.

Refunds for stabling/camping are at AELEC's discretion and must be requested through their office.

**TELEPHONE CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellation by telephone will not be accepted.

**CHECK IN PROCEDURE:** Show packs, including exhibitor numbers, may be collected from the Show Office from 3.00 PM on Wednesday, 22nd April 2026. No show packs will be issued until all amounts due to the PHAA or AELEC are paid to the Show Office.

**BEDDING:** Bedding will be supplied in the stables by AELEC. Extra bedding will have to be purchased by the competitor.

**CANCELLATION:** Cancellation of your stable booking before the National Show may not automatically entitle you to a refund.

**DAMAGE:** Any loss or damage caused to the stable will be the financial responsibility of the owner/exhibitor/trainer.

**DECORATIONS:** Stable decorating is encouraged, keeping in mind the safety of the horses, exhibitors and public. If affixing items to the stable panels, DO NOT use nails, blue tac, glue or other permanent adhesives. All decorations must be removed on your departure. Failure to do so may result in a fee being levied to have the removal carried out.

**DISPOSAL OF WASTE BEDDING & MANURE:** Manure and waste bedding are only to be disposed of in the designated waste dump areas.

**SAFETY:** No skateboards, scooters, or bicycles are allowed in the stable area. Horses are only to be walked in the stable area. Horses are not to be ridden in the stable area.

**WASH BAYS:** Wash bays are located at the ends of the stable blocks. All manure must be removed from the wash bay area before exiting the wash bay.

## GENERAL RULES

**CHILDREN:** Children under 12 years of age must be supervised at all times. No Child may enter the Marshalling area or the chute into the arena at any time, unless they are competing. No riding of bikes/scooters/skateboards, etc. in the Main Arena concourse or stable area at any time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Most important announcements will be made over the public address (PA) system, these announcements are a courtesy only. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be aware of class calls and schedule changes. Any request for a special announcement must be made in writing to the Show Office. All announcements must be approved by Show Officials.

**CONDUCT:** Any person acting, inciting or permitting others to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Association, or deemed to be unsportsmanlike, improper, unethical, dishonest or prejudicial to the best interests of the Association shall be reported to the Association and be subject to disciplinary action.

**DOGS/PETS:** Dogs and pets are permitted on the campground ONLY and MUST be restrained at all times. You MUST clean up after your dog. NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN STABLE BLOCKS, ALL ARENAS, INCLUDING THE CONCOURSE AT THE MAIN ARENA.

**EXHIBITOR/SPECTATOR COOPERATION** – All individuals are requested to always cooperate with Show Officials. Any individual who is delinquent in his responsibility in the area may, along with his horse/s or exhibit/s, be excused from further competition and/or removed from the grounds. The abuse of any Show Official exhibitor, spectator or animal will not be tolerated.

**EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT:** The conditions of submitting entries or the first entry into the show ring of a horse or exhibitor will be deemed as acceptance of the rules outlined in this show booklet.

**MANAGEMENT:** The Nationals Show is managed by the PHAA. All classes will be conducted in accordance with the Show Information Booklet, the PHAA Rule Book, AQHA, HSAA and the EA Rule Book as may apply. The final right to settle any conflict arising out of the National Show is reserved by the Show Officials or PHAA Directors accordingly. If this book, the PHAA Rules, AQHA, HSAA and EA Rules do not cover any rule or condition, the final decision shall be made by the Show Officials or Disputes Committee accordingly.

**MEDIA RULES:** The Association has the right to photograph or record any participant, exhibitor and/or spectator at the National Show. These photographs or recordings may be used for promotional reasons or in PHAA publications.

## HORSE SHOW RULES

**ADMISSION TO ARENA:** During the hours of competition, no person shall be admitted to the arena except Judges, Show Officials or participants in the class. In classes where additional attendants or handlers are allowed, they shall not enter the arena until permitted by a Judge or Show Official.

**ARENA ATTIRE:** Any attendant or handler that is permitted into the arena shall be neatly and suitably attired, with either Western or English hats and appropriate footwear. Shorts, singlet tops, short sleeve shirts etc., are not considered appropriate attire.

**BREAKS:** Show Officials will endeavour to hold breaks; however reserves the right to reschedule any advertised break.

**PLACING:** In all classes, exhibitors will be announced and placed in the arena from 6<sup>th</sup> place through to champion.

**DISQUALIFICATION:** Any horse that shows evidence of blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel or flank area may be considered to be abused and excused from the arena. Any horse that becomes loose from its handler/rider and cannot be caught or controlled by the original handler/rider may be disqualified and excused from the arena.

**DRUG TESTING:** Drug testing may be done on any random class or feature, and a random system will be used. There must be an announcement or notice informing competitors that drug testing will be carried out on a horse before the class opening at the show. The drug steward must accompany the horse from the ring to the testing box. The horse is not allowed to be left unsupervised, with the drug steward remaining with the horse until the veterinarian has completed the testing procedure and all paperwork has been completed and signed. The drug steward must have PHAA authority to sign any relevant paperwork. The owner/handler of the horse should appoint a representative to also accompany the horse. Prize money will be withheld until a clear, negative test result has been received by the PHAA office. Should a positive swab be returned, the PHAA may take disciplinary action as per the PHAA Official Rule book. Any prize money will be distributed to the remaining horses as per the feature guidelines, and any awards will be removed from the horse.

If a positive drug test is returned without supporting veterinary documentation already being supplied, the cost of further testing to identify the banned substance will be charged to the owners.

**EXHIBITOR NUMBERS:** Exhibitors with incorrect placement and/or missing numbers will not be allowed in class, and no refund will be given. Exhibitor numbers will be provided by the PHAA in your show pack. This number belongs to the horse. Only those numbers as supplied by the PHAA are acceptable (except where in saddle pad kits). In halter, showmanship, hunter in hand, dressage, lunge line and led trail – one number is to be worn on the back of the exhibitor. In all western ridden classes, it is mandatory that two numbers are used, one on either side of the saddle pad and in English ridden classes, it is preferable that two numbers be used, although one number may be used on the back of the rider. Any exhibitor showing with an incorrect number or missing their number will be disqualified or will not be permitted into the arena for competition, and no refund will be given. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor for safekeeping of their numbers. Replacement numbers are available from the Show Office at \$5 per set. Dressage and Hack competitors may use a bridle or front number holder as per the E.A and Hack Council Rules.

**JUDGES:** Show management reserves the right to use alternate judges if necessary. Specialist judges may be used. The JUDGES' decisions are considered final.

**MARSHALLING AREA:** A marshalling area shall be provided for events in the main arena. Only entrants in the next class shall enter the marshalling area, with a maximum of one groom per horse. Spectators are not permitted in the marshalling area. No loping, cantering, or lunging is permitted in the marshalling area. Other marshalling areas may be designated for other events, with the same conditions applying to these areas.

**PATTERNS:** Patterns will be made available upon collection of your show pack. Additional patterns will be available at the office.

**PAYOUTS:** No payment will be paid until the results of drug testing are available. Prize money will be paid via direct deposit to the exhibitor within one month of the event. Feature events – refer to Gross Income less expenses.

**PROTEST PROCEDURE:** Any person wishing to protest a horse's/exhibitor's eligibility in any class may do so by submitting to the Show Office a protest in writing stating the rule and/or rule number that has been violated and attaching evidence to support the same. Only show contestants/exhibitors in the protested class or show officials may lodge a protest. The protest fee of \$50 must accompany the protest and must be lodged within one hour of the conclusion of the event in which the violation is alleged to have occurred. Show officials are not required to pay the protest fee. The fee will be forfeited if the protest is not upheld. If the protest is sustained, the protest fee will be refunded to the person protesting; the judge's decision is final. The same process applies if an exhibitor wishes to protest the awarding of any high point award. The exception is a contestant who is competing for a high point award may protest a class that counts towards this award even though the contestant was not a competitor in the class.

**SPLIT CLASSES:** In the interest of fairness to all exhibitors in ridden events, a maximum of 14–17 horses in the arena will be maintained at any one time. In classes with numbers greater than 14–17, go rounds will be run. The Show Manager shall determine the entrants for each go round and will decide if needed for events with more than 14 entrants.

**TIE BREAKER:** In events that are officiated by more than one judge, a tie-breaker judge will be nominated before commencement of the class/es.

**WITHDRAWING FROM A CLASS:** If withdrawing/scratching from a class, please notify the Show Office prior to the event to assist in the smooth running of the show.

**WORKING ORDER:** All events in which there is a pattern shall have a working order/draw. Entrants will be required to adhere to their placement in the draw. Draws will appear in the program. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to locate their position/time in the draw.

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** The official Photographer will be Ev Lagoon Photography. It is a requirement for each winner to have an official photograph taken. This photo may be used by the PHAA in publications or advertisements. Owners/Exhibitors are responsible for any fees incurred in the orders or purchase of photographs.

## SHOW RING ETIQUETTE

**GENERAL:** Be on time for your class. There are always unavoidable delays, BUT tell the show personnel, and plan for it. Know the rules for the class you are entering, and make sure you have the correct gear and appointments. During the warm-up period in the ring, there will likely be a lot of horses going many different directions. Proper ring etiquette consists of always keeping at least one horse length between your horse and any other horse in front, behind, or beside you. Also, during the warm-up, if you are approaching another horse head on, call "inside" or "rail" to indicate if you will move your horse toward the inside of the ring or to the rail to pass. If during warm-ups there are trail obstacles or jumps set up in the centre, call "heads up on the" and name the obstacle/jump you are approaching. If you are not using the equipment, listen for these calls and be sure not to cross the path of the obstacles or the jump line. Don't stop and back your horse unless you are sure that no one is behind you. If you see a nervous or misbehaving horse, try to keep your distance; this may help the horse that is upset. Excuse yourself and exit the arena if your horse is disrupting the class (by rearing, running backwards, or flipping over).

**SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES:** Do not crowd the exhibitor in front or behind you when walking or lining up head to tail on side by side. Stay alert, even if the judge is not looking at you.

**RAIL CLASSES:** Enter the ring and travel counterclockwise unless otherwise directed. Keep to the rail as close as possible. Always reverse direction by turning into the arena, not by turning into the rail. In the event that you need to pass a horse on the rail that is travelling slower than yours, overtake on the inside (to the right when riding clockwise and the left when riding counterclockwise).

- a. Don't try to squeeze between a rider and the rail
- b. When passing, allow enough room in front and back of horse you are passing
- c. Do not cut off sharply in front of other horses or travel close in behind

Don't stop and back your horse unless you are certain that no one is behind you or heading toward you. Move to the centre of the ring and stay there for the completion of the class if your horse becomes disruptive. The Judge may elect to excuse you from the arena; if so carefully depart via the exit gate. In general, do not ride too close to another horse; this can get you or your horse kicked. Additionally, you may disrupt the concentration of the other horse, which is inconsiderate to your fellow competitor.

**REINING CLASS WARM-UPS:** Warm-up schedule alternates 20 minutes of circling and 20 minutes of fencing. In general, the unwritten rules of the pen are:

One end is for right circles. You want to circle as you would show, so when you come to the middle of the arena, you are going towards the judge. Don't stop in the middle of the arena (where both circles meet and everyone in the entire arena must pass through). When you are ready to stop, guide your horse to the centre of one of the circles and stop there. Spin in the centre of one of the circles, not on the path of the circle. If you want to walk, jog or trot around the perimeter and everyone is fencing, stay ON the rail. Stay off the rail if folks are circling. If you want to gallop or lope your horse and everyone is fencing, use the perimeter instead of a circle. Circlers have the right of way. Don't stop and back your horse unless you are certain that no one is behind you or heading toward you. Watch for traffic at all times. Wait for a clear spot before changing leads and going to the other circle. When folks line up against the short wall, it's fencing time. When you start your rundown, yell "heads up" if there's any chance someone might be in your way or not paying attention. If people are fencing, stay out of the middle, go to a corner to spin or rest. Don't stay on the short wall to rest; go to the long wall (don't take precious fencing space). Accidents happen when people go against traffic while circling, back their horses, stop abruptly, change directions abruptly, don't yell "heads up" to warn people that will be thundering down the arena.

## AELEC GUIDELINES

All dogs must be on a lead or chain at all times. Restrictions will apply, and AELEC reserves the right to remove from or deny entry to any dogs from the venue. All droppings must be placed in a bag and deposited into the waste bins provided. Dogs are not permitted under any circumstances in the Stables, Arenas or Marshalling areas at any time.

AELEC Office hours are from 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday. Event organisers have contact details of AELEC management.

No lunging or exercising of horses is permitted on the AELEC grass areas. Lunging and exercising must be undertaken within the designated warm-up or enclosures provided.

Horses should not be tied to bars that form the top half of the stable walls. Use the rings provided in each stall. All buildings are NO SMOKING ZONES, including the Undercroft, Stables, Sales Arena and Stadium Arena. All Cigarette butts are to be deposited in receptacles.

All competitors, event organisers, contractors, staff, volunteers and the general public are asked to pick up the litter they deposit throughout the venue and place it in the bins provided.

All electric golf carts must only be driven by a licensed driver – no children are to operate these vehicles. It is preferred that any motorised vehicle, such as a 4 wheel motorcycle are not to be used around the stable areas. The Stable Blocks are not to be used as an area to hold after hours parties/social gatherings.

## **HIGH POINT HORSE OF SHOW**

The following scoring system will be used to determine the winner.

- a) To be eligible for all-round honours, a horse must compete in at least three (3) approved performance events.
- b) Horses placing in the top six will be allotted points as set out below.
- c) No points are to be awarded to a disqualified horse regardless of the number in the class.

## **POINT SCORE SYSTEM**

Horses placing in the top six will be allotted points as set out below:

6 or more entries in a class – points to be awarded 6,5,4,3,2,1

5 or more entries in a class – points to be awarded 5,4,3,2,1

4 or more entries in a class – points to be awarded 4,3,2,1

3 or more entries in a class – points to be awarded 3,2,1

2 or more entries in a class – points to be awarded 2,1

1 entry in a class – points to be awarded 1

## **PAYOUT FOR FEATURE EVENTS**

Prize money for feature events is guaranteed and paid out as follows from 70% of the class earnings: (1 – 4 horses 60%, 40%; 4 – 10 Horses 50%, 30%, 20%) (greater than 10 Horses 40%, 30%, 20%, 10%) of the entry fee, less expenses.

## **PAYOUT FOR \$1000 FEATURE EVENTS**

Prize money for \$1000 feature events is guaranteed and paid out as follows: 1<sup>ST</sup> \$700, 2<sup>ND</sup> \$200, 3<sup>RD</sup> \$100

## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

This Animal Welfare Policy applies to any sanctioned event held by the Association, its Affiliates and any organisation that has been given program approval.

### **6.1 Humane Treatment**

The Association will not tolerate the inhumane treatment of a horse or any other animal used in competition.

- a) No member or non-member will treat any horse or animal in a cruel or inhumane manner.
- b) Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to, all relevant animal welfare legislation and rules of the National Authorities controlling the applicable sport.
- c) In any equestrian sporting event, the welfare of the horse is always the primary consideration.
- d) No horse should be ridden or trained in such a way that it is subject to extended periods of mental or physical distress.
- e) Association members must comply with all relevant animal welfare legislation and rules. This applies to all horses exhibited at events sanctioned by the PHAA, PHAA Affiliates and at any event that has been given Association program approval.
- f) The Association encourages all members to follow best animal welfare practices in all their dealings with horses.

Any member will be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the Association, and any non-member will be fined and/or denied Association privileges for any violations of Rule 231.

## 6.2 Responsibility

An individual is responsible for the horse's condition if:

- they designate themselves on the entry form as the exhibitor or authorise another to designate him/her as the exhibitor on the entry form.
- they sign the entry form on behalf of themselves or another, or cause an agent or representative to sign it.
- they physically participate in the class by riding or showing the horse.
- they are the actual trainer, having presented or caused to be presented the horse at the grounds for exhibition.
- both the exhibitor, designated on the entry form, and the person having actual possession of the horse, while physically participating in the event, are conclusively deemed to be authorised by the owner to execute all documents necessary, or convenient, to allow the horse's participation in an event approved by the Association, including documents pertaining to drug testing.
- an individual is prevented from performing their duties, including absolute responsibility for the condition of the horse/s, or is absent from the show, they must immediately notify the show secretary, at the same time appoint a substitute, and such substitute must place their name on the entry form.
- the exhibitor represents the owner regarding their horse(s) entered in an approved show.

## 6.3 Prohibited Conduct

No person on the grounds, including but not limited to barns, stalls, practice areas or show arena, can treat a horse in a manner that includes, but is not limited to:

- continuous and/or relentless pressure from the bit, legs, or spurs.
- placing an object, other than a legal bit, in a horse's mouth to cause undue discomfort or distress.
- placing a legal bit in a horse's mouth in an abnormal manner.
- leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of time to cause undue discomfort or distress, broken skin and/or bleeding.
- tying a horse's head up (above the withers), back, or around in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress. The horse must be able to hold its head comfortably in a "normal" position.
- tying a horse in a stall without access to food or water for an extended period.
- use of excessive training techniques such as striking a horse's legs.
- excessive spurring or whipping.
- excessive spinning (defined as more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction).
- continuing to work or exhibit a horse which appears to be sullen, lethargic, emaciated, dehydrated, depressed, drawn or overly tired.
- schooling using rails higher than 1.2 metres.
- breaking the skin and causing bleeding from the spur, bit, or any other equipment.
- riding or training in such a way that the horse is subject to periods of mental or physical distress.
- exhibiting a horse that has an open wound and/or shows traces of blood, and using prohibited equipment on the horse at Association approved events.

## 6.5 Prohibited Equipment

The use of prohibited equipment includes but is not limited to:

- saw tooth bits
- hock hobbles
- tack collars
- curb straps with tack/rivets or tack hackamores
- war bridles or like devices
- riding in a curb bit without a curb strap
- wire or solid metal curb straps, with or without padding
- wire cavesson
- wire or cable tie downs
- bumper bits
- metal bosals with or without padding
- metal lunging hackamores
- Chambons, headstalls made of metal, with or without padding
- running martingales used without rein stops
- excessively tight nosebands
- draw reins attached between or around the front legs
- side reins (direct from bit to girth or surcings)
- any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the horse's tail
- any appliance or equipment, which results in any bleeding, and
- any other treatment or conduct deemed by a show official to be inhumane or abusive.

## 231.5 False Tails for showing purposes

One (1), only a false tail may be added to a horse's tail with a maximum weight of 1 kilogram (1000g), with no modifications or attachments fixed to the false tail or horse's tail.

## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The PHAA Ltd Board may act regarding any violation of PHAA Ltd Rules and Regulations. The PHAA Ltd Board shall have jurisdiction to invoke a sanction, revocation or participation or denial of membership privileges, access or presence on show grounds of a PHAA Ltd approved show.

## BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity measures will be implemented in the case of a suspected and/or confirmed case of any notifiable disease.

## RULES FOR CLASSES NOT IN THE RULE BOOK

**YEARLING, 2YO, & 3YO and Over LED VERSATILITY:** 4 classes to be entered at \$44 each plus \$50 Versatility Entry. Must compete in Versatility Halter plus a minimum of 2 of 3 specified performance classes. Points will be calculated as per the High Point system for the National Show. 2yr old /3yr old entered in the Versatility classes must not be ridden at the same show. Only horses in the Versatility may compete in the Led Versatility classes.

Paint Performance registered horses are allowed to compete in the Halter section of the Versatilities.

**TINY TOTS FEATURE:** Competitors in this event must be aged between 3–6 Years of Age, and financial members of the PHAA. All horses must be on a leadline; no stallions allowed. No 2YO or 3YO horse will be permitted – 4 Year old and over Led Versatility horses are exempt and can be used. This is NON point scoring.

### ADDITIONAL RULES TO THE RANCH CONFORMATION

In Ranch Conformation & Ranch Prospect classes, colts & stallions may use a chain on the lead for safety and control purposes. The chain can be worn under the jaw or through the halter as appropriate, but cannot be used over the nose. No lip chains or lip cords permitted

### LIMITED HORSE CLASSES:

- A Limited Horse must not have more than a combined total of 10 points in the respective class they are entering.
- Limited Horses cannot compete in horse age category classes.
- They can compete in Feature classes.
- These classes are non-point scoring.

**YEARLING, 2YO, & 3YO LED RANCH VERSATILITY:** 3 classes to be entered at \$44 each plus \$50 Versatility Entry. Points will be calculated as per High Point system for National Show. 2yr old /3yr old entered in the Led Ranch Versatility classes must not be ridden at same show.