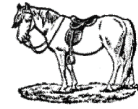


## NEW FOREST PONY BREEDING AND CATTLE SOCIETY



### **NEW FOREST JUDGES GUIDELINES 2026**

#### **GENERAL**

Judges should ensure that they are aware of the current breed society and NPS showing rules and breed description and must be a member of the Society.

#### **IMPARTIALITY**

New Forest judges should follow the NPS rules on impartiality as published in the current year's NPS rule book. **This is required in the ring and on any public forum.**

#### **JUDGING**

A judge should always be neatly dressed and wear an appropriate hat.

A judge should report to the secretary of the show at least half an hour before the class is due to start.

A judge should avoid meeting exhibitors, their helpers or their ponies on the day of the show where they are to judge, both prior, and after, they have judged the classes.

Judges are forbidden to refer to the show catalogue before or during judging. They are encouraged, however, to carry a schedule and should be aware of any special prizes or awards.

Judges must only be accompanied in the ring by persons appointed by the show or an approved probationer judge

A judge should not call an exhibitor by his/her names in the ring, all instructions should be relayed through the steward. No social conversation should take place.

Judges are asked to take behaviour and temperament into account and not to judge ponies whose behaviour they consider to be a danger to either its handler/rider or other competitors. Such a pony should be asked to leave the ring.

Judges are requested to report to the Society behaviour of exhibitors likely to bring the Society into disrepute.

If a pony entered in a class, in the opinion of the judge, is unsound, the judge may at his/her discretion require the exhibitor to withdraw the pony from that class, subject to the right of the exhibitor to refer the matter to a veterinary surgeon should one be in attendance. If no vet is available, then the judge's decision is considered final.

Judges who accept probationers; should fill in his or her report promptly; failure to do this may delay a trainee's progress.

**Judges should follow the Society's Social Media and Internet Policy and refrain from commenting about judging on social media.**

The judge's decision is final provided all relevant rules have been followed.

## **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PROBATIONER JUDGES**

Probationers are reminded that they are being assessed not only on their knowledge of ponies, but also their suitability as Officers and Representatives of the Society, and should act in a courteous and considerate manner, both inside and outside the ring.

When arranging an appointment to attend a show as a probationer, the trainee should request permission to do so, not only with the officiating judge, but also the show secretary. It must be understood that some shows do not permit probationer judges.

A probationer should ensure that the judge, with whom he or she has judged a particular show, be given a Judge's Report form together with a stamped envelope addressed to the Society office.

Probationer judges should attempt, wherever possible, to attend shows outside their local area, and not with local judges.

Approved by Council October 2025