



NEW FOREST JUDGES SCHEME

PRE-APPLICATION

Nominees must be current and fully paid-up members of the Society for a continuous period of at least three years. They should have been breeding or showing successfully or involved with New Forest Ponies during that time.

The Council may use its discretion and waive the prerequisite to have been a society member for 3-years prior for NPS judges and those on other M&M panels who want to apply for the New Forest panel.

Nominees should be familiar with the New Forest Pony Society Breed Description and Showing Rules. In the opinion of the Council, they must have a genuine interest in New Forest Ponies.

It is beneficial to have undertaken stewarding and judging at unaffiliated shows.

APPLYING FOR THE PROBATIONARY JUDGES ASSESSMENT

Potential probationary judges should be proposed by two people with appropriate experience, eg, well-known breeders, or judges, or vets.

The application form, which can be obtained from the Society's Secretary or website, must be submitted with a statement of support from the two proposers.

Application documentation and statement of support references are made available to the Judges Committee but are otherwise confidential.

The selection of nominations for Assessment will be made by the Judges Committee.

THE PROBATIONARY JUDGES ASSESSMENT

The assessors will be a panel drawn from the Judges Committee, but they may appoint other assessors drawn from the New Forest Judges Panel.

Candidates will not be assessed by their Proposers.

Candidates should come dressed appropriately for judging at that time of year.

Candidates should follow the Judges Guidelines throughout the Assessment and Interview.

Candidates will be asked to assess and give marks and make written comments on a selection of ponies, with particular emphasis on type, conformation and soundness, and place them in order.

Candidates will then be interviewed by the panel of assessors.

In this interview, candidates will be asked to justify the order in which they placed the ponies, and answer questions on the breed description and showing rules.

Candidates will be informed of their results in writing by the Society office as soon as possible after the assessment and will be given written details of the terms of their probationary period.

Successful candidates are required to complete a Child Protection Self-Disclosure Form.

If unsuccessful, candidates may re-apply for the next assessment and, on re-application, should state how they have developed their skills and knowledge.

Any decisions made by Council are final.

THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD

The minimum number of appointments to be completed by Probationer Judges will be decided by the assessors.

The number of probationary appointments will be determined by the Judges Committee after the Assessment.

Probationer judges may be asked to judge only in-hand classes first, so that they can concentrate on type and conformation.

Probationer Judges should follow the Additional Guidelines for Probationer Judges as well as the Judges Guidelines.

After the show, the judge is required to send a report on the Probationer to the Society for consideration by the Judges Committee.

The Judges Committee will review all probationary reports in the autumn each year and advise current probationers of their progress to date.

Following satisfactory completion of in-hand classes, probationers progress to ridden classes, with the focus on assessing the way of going within breed type. Candidates will be advised whether they should attend a ridden assessment, or how many ridden classes they should probation.

On completion of the required probationary shows, as set out in their appointment letter, the Judges Committee will consider all the probationary reports and will either appoint to the B-Panel; or extend the probationary period.

The Judges Committee will make recommendation to Council and any decisions made by Council are final.

B-PANEL JUDGES

B-Panel Judges are not eligible to judge at County level shows, NPS Summer Championship Show or HOYS Qualifiers.

All B-Panel Judges are to submit an annual record all classes judged, with approximate numbers forward, and any other relevant information (eg stewarding). The details of the numbers of New Forest ponies assessed should be given. The Secretary will send out annually the form to be used.

The Judges Committee will review the record sheet annually and make recommendations to the Council for the promotion of B-Panel Judges to the Full Judges Panel.

B-Panel Judges may not accept Probationary Judges.

THE SOCIETY'S FULL JUDGES PANEL

Judges are appointed annually.

The Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion to appoint, not appoint or re-appoint to the Judges' Panel. The appointment of a member to the Judges Panel will be valid for a period of one year from the effective date of appointment. The effective date of appointment is the 1st January in each year or other such date as the Council may from time to time decide.

A member will cease to be a judge if the appointment to the Judges Panel is not renewed within one year of the effective date of appointment.

The Council reserves the right to monitor judges whilst judging New Forest affiliated classes.

The Council may use its absolute discretion in inviting suitably qualified judges, to officiate at the breed show.

All judges should be current Society members.

Following the Judges Committee review of the Judges List each autumn, the Secretary will write to all current Society judges annually asking if they wish to remain on the Panel;

On accepting the annual invitation to the Judges Panel, judges will:

- be asked for any amendments to their personal details;
- agree to judge under NFPBCS Rules at all shows affiliated to the NFPBCS.
- Confirm that they are agreeable to name, address and contact details appearing on the NFPBCS and NPS website and in the NFPBCS and NPS Official List of Judges.
- Make a declaration of age if over 75 years of age
- Make an insurance/medical declaration
- Make a Child Protection declaration

All judges are to follow the New Forest Judges Guidelines.

ELITE SHOWS & JUDGING

Society Judges should only accept to judge one Elite Show per year.

Elite Shows:

Northern Supporters Group Show
New Forest Pony Enthusiasts Club Show

Royal Bath & West Show
Royal Three Counties Show
Royal Cheshire Show
New Forest Show
NPS Summer Championships Show
Annual Breed Show

Royal International Horse Show
Horse of the Year Show
London International Horse Show

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW PANEL INTERNATIONAL PANEL STALLION INSPECTIONS AND GRADING PANEL

The Judges Committee administers these three panels and makes recommendations on membership to Council.

STUDY DAYS

Study Days are generally held biennially in the spring. Probationary Assessments are held as part of the Study Day.

Council has determined that judges should attend a Study Day at least once in every five years in order to remain on the Society Panel.

Judges may submit appropriate documentation (eg an attendance certificate) for attendance at Study Days run by NPS or other appropriate organisations for consideration by the Judges Committee.

SAFEGUARDING

The Council has adopted the following NPS policy:

The NPS has adopted the policies and procedures of the British Equestrian Federation relating to safeguarding. The NPS places the highest priority on the safety and enjoyment of children and young people participating in equestrian sport and is committed to promoting the highest possible standard of care across the whole Society.

The full Safeguarding Policy document can be downloaded from the BEF website.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Instances where a judge fails to observe the New Forest Judges Scheme and Guidelines, or whose conduct is seen by the Council as prejudicial to the character or interests of the NFPBCS, will be referred to the Judges Committee in the first instance and if required will be referred to the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure.

The Council will review the position of any judge who receives a serious complaint and may remove the judge from the Judges Panel or ask them to retrain.

The Society has adopted the NPS Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures as published in the current year's NPS rules book.

ADMINISTRATION

The Society's GDPR Statement applies to the New Forest Judges Scheme.

The New Forest Judges Scheme is administered by the Judges Committee, which makes recommendations to the Council.

Any decisions made by Council are final.

Approved by Council October 2025