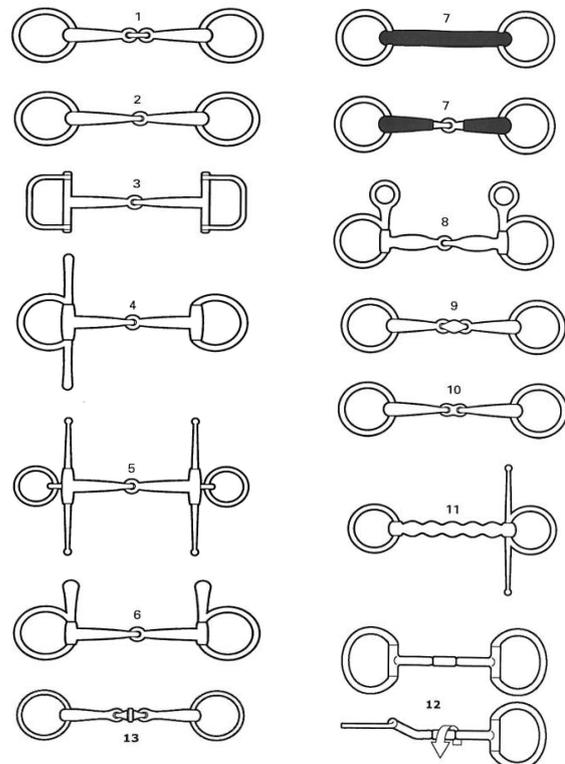


# IMPORTANT RULES FOR SHOWING

1. If fewer than 6 entries are received in any class, the class may be cancelled or amalgamated with other classes. Where it is found necessary to divide a class there will be no option of withdrawal, however in the case of a class being amalgamated Exhibitors will be given the option to withdraw.
2. All Exhibitors leading, riding or showing equines in competition must be 16 years of age or over on 1 January 2018, unless otherwise stated in the class detail. No person under 16 years of age on 1 January 2018 will be allowed to show, ride or lead ponies or horses in parade **with the exception of riders in the Connemara Performance Hunter, International Connemara Performance Hunter, Small Event Horse, Small Hunters, Riding Horses, Ridden Connemara Ponies and Coloured Horses.**
3. For all ridden classes, the rider's name must be included on the Entry Form. Once the Entry Form is submitted, the RDS must be notified of and approve any change of rider.
4. All horses must be entered and competed under their registered name, as it appears on the animal's passport currently. If a different name is given on the Entry Form, the Society reserves the right to refuse entry to the Showgrounds or change the name of the horse to its registered name.
5. A horse / pony must be shown / competed by the named exhibitor / rider during all phases of competition and a substitution will not be permitted, except in the case of exceptional circumstances where special permission must be sought from the Chief Steward of the class. A change of rider will **not** be permitted for the second phase of the Working Hunter Horses (Classes 14 – 17). If a rider qualifies more than one horse to compete in the Working Hunter Championship (Cup 70) a change of rider may be permitted if special permission is sought from the Chief Steward. Further details can be found in the Working Hunter Horses class details on pg 27 of this Schedule.
6. The Society reserves the right to refuse entry into the judging ring to owners of exhibits in any capacity other than that of a rider in the riding classes or a leader in the led classes or to receive a trophy.  
A veterinary certificate will not be required but the judges will take soundness into account when awarding the prizes and if they wish, may consult with the Referee Judge or one of the Society's veterinarians.
7. The use of mobile phones in the judging rings is strictly forbidden.
8. The Chief Steward may at his / her discretion refuse to allow a judge to ride a horse he / she considers unsuitable. The Chief Steward also has the authority to exclude any animal deemed unmanageable from competition. If the competitor / exhibitor is directed to leave the competition ring they must do so immediately.
9. The fall of a rider or horse will incur elimination from competition. A rider is considered to have fallen when, either voluntarily or involuntarily, they are separated from their horse / pony, in such a way that they touch the ground or find it necessary, in order to get back into the saddle, to use some form of support or outside assistance. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters have touched the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
10. Excessive 'circling' in ridden classes will not be permitted.
11. Protective headgear conforming to the recommended Kitemark standard – PAS 015, F1163 or Snell, and fitted with an adjustable harness, is recommended for all riders. Please note that (BS) EN1384 hats will not be permitted unless the hat is dual stamped with another standard such as Snell or PAS 015.  
Protective headgear conforming to the above standards is compulsory for riders under the age of 16 years and for all riders competing in performance classes i.e. Working Hunter Horses, Working Hunter Ponies, Performance Irish Draught, Connemara Performance Hunter, International Connemara Performance Hunter, Combined Training, Junior Equitation, Young Event Horse and Small Event Horse.  
In the ridden show classes, gentlemen and lady riders over 16 years of age may, if they so choose, wear a bowler hat (gentlemen) or a velvet hunt cap (ladies).
12. A body protector must be worn by all riders competing in the Young Event Horse, Small Event Horse, Working Hunter Pony, Combined Training (Jumping Phase), Junior Equitation, Working Hunter Horse, Performance Irish Draught, Connemara Performance Hunter and International Connemara Performance Hunter classes. A correctly fitted, BETA approved and appropriately labelled Level 3 body protector, manufactured in the year 2000 or after, is recommended. If a rider chooses to wear an airbag style body protector, it must be worn over a recommended body protector.
13. A pony entered in one of the Classes 69 to 97 may also be entered in any other of the Classes 69 to 97 provided they are eligible. Where height, age or registration is a condition of entry the onus rests with the exhibitor to ensure the pony is qualified for the classes in which it is entered.
14. The attention of Exhibitors is drawn to the Rule of Measurement (See Rule 58 – General Rules & Regulations, pg 16).
15. In classes for children's ponies the manners and obedience of the ponies will be taken into consideration by the judges in awarding the prizes.
16. Spurs will not be permitted in the following pony ridden classes: Ridden Connemara Ponies, Show Hunter Ponies, Lead Rein Show Hunter Ponies, Lead Rein Show Ponies, First Ridden Ponies and Working Hunter Ponies.
17. The wearing of blinkers is prohibited.
18. Earphones and / or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited in ridden competitions, and such usage is penalised by elimination. Furthermore, athletes may not wear earphones at any time while mounted; this applies everywhere within the Showgrounds.

19. In the case of child riders competing at the Show, entries can only be accepted if accompanied by a signed certificate of competence by the parent verifying that the child has attained the level of competence for the class / classes they are entered in. The child's trainer should also be identified on the Entry Form in the space provided, permission for their inclusion should be obtained and is the responsibility of the parent. If it is the case that a parent primarily conducts the child's training, this should be recorded on the Entry Form also.
20. For all riders under the age of 21, age must be documented in the appropriate place on the Entry Form.
21. In all showing classes at the Show only the running martingale is permitted. Standing martingales are not permitted.
22. For all classes taking place in Rings 1 and 2, only tack permitted in the competition ring is acceptable in the practice / warm-up arena and throughout the Showgrounds (including stables).
23. Where lungeing is necessary, it may only be done in the designated lungeing areas and must be without side-reins or any other restriction. Long-reining is prohibited on the Showgrounds.
24. Once having passed through the Arrivals Area, only the designated rider may ride ponies competing in Rings 1 and 2.
25. Ring 3 will act as a collecting ring only during Show hours, exercising in Ring 3 is not permitted during these times.
26. Excessive use of the whip (as defined by the FEI) is forbidden in both the competition and practice rings:
  - a. The whip cannot be used to vent a rider's temper. Such use is always excessive.
  - b. The whip is not to be used after elimination or after a horse has jumped the last fence on a course.
  - c. The whip is never to be used overhand (for example a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank).
  - d. The use of a whip on the horse's head is always excessive use.
  - e. If a horse's skin is broken, it is considered excessive use of the whip.
  - f. A horse should never be hit more than three times in any one incident.
  - g. A rider identified as excessively using the whip may be disqualified and may be fined at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
27. Exhibitors are strongly advised that all equines competing at the Dublin Horse Show should have experience at other shows before being exhibited in Dublin.
28. In all matters of interpretation or circumstances unforeseen, the decision of the RDS Organising Committee will be final and binding on all.
29. Stallion identification tags and a blue 'hazard' tail ribbon must be worn by stallions at all times.
30. Only the following snaffle bits will be accepted when specified in the class details:

1. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece
2. Ordinary snaffle with jointed mouthpiece
3. Racing snaffle - "D Ring"
4. Egg-butt snaffle, with or without cheeks
5. Other type of snaffle with cheeks
6. Snaffle with upper cheeks only
7. Rubber, leather, plastic or steel snaffle jointed or unjointed
8. Hanging cheek snaffle
9. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece with lozenge
10. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece (French link)
11. Unjointed straight or wavy plastic or rubber snaffle (not steel), with or without cheeks. Permitted also with mullen mouth or egg butt rings
12. Ordinary snaffle with rotating mouthpiece
13. Ordinary snaffle with rotating middle piece



***Please note that 'Wilkie' bits are not permitted unless otherwise specified in the class details.***

31. Neat dress is required in the judging rings at all times. Please see below details of the acceptable dress for the various participants in the showing section;

***a. Ridden Show Classes***

- Tweed jacket for both ladies and gentlemen
- Neat shirt and tie
- Beige, fawn or cream breeches
- Long black boots
- Gloves
- Protective headgear conforming to the recommended Kitemark standard – PAS 015, F1163 or Snell, and fitted with an adjustable harness, is recommended for all riders. Please note that (BS) EN1384 hats will not be permitted unless the hat is dual stamped with another standard such as Snell or PAS 015. It is compulsory for riders under the age of 16 years. In the ridden show classes, gentlemen and lady riders over 16 years of age may, if they so choose, wear a bowler hat (gentlemen) or a velvet hunt cap (ladies)
- Showing cane

***b. Working Hunter Horse, Working Hunter Pony, Performance Irish Draught, Connemara Performance Hunter, International Connemara Performance Hunter, Combined Training\*, Junior Equitation\*, Young Event Horse and Small Event Horse classes***

- Tweed or hunting style jacket for both ladies and gentlemen
- Neat shirt and tie
- Beige, fawn or cream breeches
- Long black boots
- Gloves
- Protective headgear conforming to the recommended Kitemark standard – PAS 015, F1163 or Snell, and fitted with an adjustable harness, is compulsory for all riders. Please note that (BS) EN1384 hats will not be permitted unless the hat is dual stamped with another standard such as Snell or PAS 015.
- A body protector must be worn by all riders. A correctly fitted, BETA approved and appropriately labelled Level 3 body protector, manufactured in the year 2000 or after, is recommended. If a rider chooses to wear an airbag style body protector, it must be worn over a recommended body protector
- Showing cane (not permitted for the Junior Equitation classes)

\* For Combined Training and Junior Equitation show jumping jackets will also be permitted.

***c. In-Hand Show Classes***

- Gentlemen should wear a suit or jacket and trousers, with collar and tie in addition to a bowler hat
- Ladies may wear a tweed jacket and trousers with a hunting cap or a suitable skirt or suit with a hat
- Footwear for both ladies and gentlemen should be appropriate for the terrain – non-slip, sturdy and low heeled i.e. jodhpur boots. Trainers are not permitted under any circumstance
- Gloves
- Showing cane

***d. Grooms***

- Grooms must be neatly attired when entering the show ring, failure to observe the dress code will result in immediate expulsion from the ring
- Neat collar and tie
- Jacket or gilet
- Trousers – jeans are not permitted under any circumstance
- Suitable footwear i.e. jodhpur boots. Trainers are not permitted under any circumstance