



SPECIFIC RULES FOR THE SIDE SADDLE SECTION 2019

The general conditions of the Land Rover Horse of the Year also apply to the Side Saddle Section.

Please read the general conditions carefully, as these have changed.

The Side Saddle Section Convener and Officials reserve the right to amend any rules as necessary.

QUALIFICATION

- The NZSSA Certificate of Capability (COC) is part of the NZSSA Land Rover Horse of the Year Side Saddle Section Rules & Conditions of Entry & Qualification.
- The COC requires each combination to gain the judge`s affirmation (on the day of competition) of their Side Saddle capability at two (2) separate shows or events.
- Qualification can be gained by Riding Side Saddle at ANY Show or Competition -pony club/riding club/ribbon day /show /Dressage or Show Jumping. Qualification competitions need not be specific side saddle classes.
- Each rider is responsible for ensuring that their own COC has been accepted and confirmed.
- Combinations who have won a side saddle class at Land Rover Horse of the Year the previous year, are automatically fully qualified, except the Turnout class winner who is not exempt.

These automatic qualifiers must also sign a DECLARATION, so they will officially have a Certificate of Capability, signed off by the Land Rover Horse of the Year Convenor, sent to them to sign and return.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- 1- Height certificates are not required.
- 2- Junior Riders are those aged under 17 years, as at the 31st of March 2018.
- 3- Ponies must be four years old or over. Horses must be five years old or over. Proof of age may be required.
- 4- One Mount per Rider for the section and One Rider per Mount for the section.
- 5- Stallions are allowed, subject to compliance with the relevant RAS rules for identifying and handling a stallion in public.

SUBSTITUTION

Because it is the COMBINATION of Horse / Pony and Rider that qualify-

- ONLY a mount qualified by the same rider may be substituted

-and **ONLY if the entered mount is ill or injured.**

Likewise, **ONLY** a rider who has qualified on the same mount may be substituted

-and **ONLY if the entered RIDER is ill or injured.**

A Medical Certificate or Vet Certificate may be required.

Substitutions must be advised in person and approved by the Side Saddle Section Officials before judging of the Side Saddle Section commences.

SAFETY

- 1- All competitors' side saddles must be fitted with either an approved safety iron of the breakaway type, and/or an approved safety bar which will release the stirrup and leather easily. The release mechanism may be inspected and/or checked at the Ring Steward's or Judge's discretion.
- 2- All side saddles must be fitted with a leaping head.
- 3- Any rider may choose to wear a body protector under the habit jacket, and providing this is well-fitting and discreet, it will not be penalised.
- 4- If a horse or pony and/or rider/handler misbehaves to the extent that it unduly disturbs other competitors, or if it poses a safety concern, the exhibitor must remove the animal from the area when requested to do so by the steward or judge. The rider and mount will then be considered retired from the competition.

HEADWEAR

- 1- ALL riders MUST wear a correctly fitting, tagged, approved safety helmet at all times when mounted. The helmet must be worn with the chinstrap properly adjusted and fastened.

TACK

- 1- A numnah may be used under the side saddle - it must be well - shaped to the saddle, discreet and unobtrusive to the eye.
- 2- Cane or whip carried must not be over 1metre in length, but should be in proportion to the rider and mount, and of suitable length to be used as a right leg aid
- 3- All horses and ponies must be ridden in a bitted bridle. The bit must be in its original manufactured condition.
- 4- Breastplate number holders are compulsory and the competitor is responsible for making the number. Only large black numbers on a white background are acceptable.
- 5- No martingale, breastplate, bandages or boots are to be worn in the ring.
- 6- Use of tongue ties or artificial head restraints is forbidden.
- 7- No electronic devices are to be worn either in the ring or holding area.

COMPETITION

- 1- The Side Saddle Section will endeavour to run to the start time listed in the programme but we reserve the right to amend the start time.
- 2- All competitors must be prepared to enter the ring at the stated time for the section.
No class will start before the stated time unless advertised and notified well in advance.
- 3- All horses or ponies must be in the Collecting Ring before the Title class commences.
- 4- No late exhibitors may enter the ring if judging has commenced.
- 5- Workouts (when required) will be ridden in the start order designated by the judge and/or steward.
- 6- Competition and/or collecting rings are closed for grazing or working horses or ponies at any time other than during the actual competition.
- 7- The Warm-up Area, Collecting Ring and Competition Ring are for competitors only.
Prams, pushchairs, scooters, skateboards, bicycles or the like are forbidden in these areas.

CONDUCT

- 1- If a rider dismounts for any reason, during the judging of a class, she or he may or may not be disqualified from that class, at the discretion of the judge. If a safety emergency requires immediate dismounting, the rider should request permission from the Ring Steward (as soon as able), who may or may not disqualify the rider from that class, upon discussion with the Judge, at their joint discretion.
- 2- If a horse or pony leaves the ring for any reason, during a class, the combination may or may not be disqualified from that class, at the discretion of the judge. If a tack emergency requires immediate attention, the rider must request permission to leave from the Ring Steward, who may permit or deny the request, upon discussion with the Judge, at their joint discretion.
- 3- No verbal instruction to, or discussion with competitors during competition is allowed except from a Section Official.
- 4- Any incident involving abuse of a horse or pony or competitor or inappropriate behaviour by any person, will initiate disciplinary action by the organizing body NZSSA and /or initiate the issue of a yellow warning card as defined in the RAS Yellow Card System.
- 5- Only Show Officials and Judges and Invited Guests are allowed in the Area surrounding the Officials' Marquee

FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES / DRUG TESTING

- 1- The use of tranquillisers, stimulants or any drugs capable of affecting the performance of horses and ponies is forbidden.
- 2- Drug tests for forbidden substances may be carried out on any horse or pony entered and testing is at the owner's risk.
- 3- Testing will be carried out under the Royal Agricultural Forbidden Substance Judicial Committee (FSJC) procedures and rules (refer rule 89 RAS Equestrian Judges & Competitors Rulebook and rule 55a of the RAS General Rules & Regulations.)

PROTESTS / COMPLAINTS

- 1- Any protest or complaint must be lodged in writing with a Side Saddle Section Official at the ring/ marquee office within 30 minutes of the completion of the Land Rover Horse of the Year Side Saddle Section, or the class or incident. The written complaint must specify the incident/occurrence, the location, and the rule or rules they are alleging have been breached. There is a specific NZSSA Protest Form available for this purpose – collect from the marquee/ ring.
- 2- A deposit of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) must be paid to NZSSA with each protest.
- 3- All matters relating to protests, complaints or disciplinary action will be dealt with by the Side Saddle Section Judicial Committee or referred to the Land Rover Horse of the Year NZSSA Council Meeting for resolution.
- 4- Once a Protest /Complaint is lodged, the conditions of confidentiality apply.